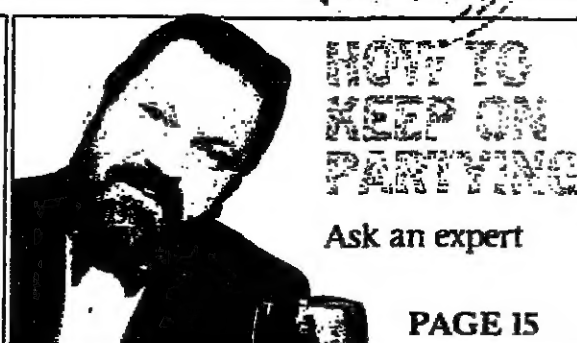




BEAUTY SECRETS FOR BOXING DAY

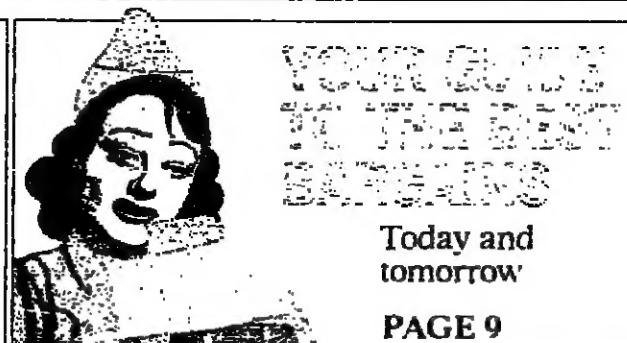
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HOW TO KEEP ON PARTYING

Ask an expert

PAGE 15



YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST BACHELORS

Today and tomorrow

PAGE 9



MAGAZINE

Power cut for thousands of families

Ten are killed as hurricanes sweep Britain

By RUSSELL JENKINS AND BILL HOFFMANN

HURRICANE force winds raged across Britain on Christmas Eve and yesterday, leaving five people dead, five French fishermen feared drowned in the Irish Sea, thousands of people without power and scores of roads blocked by fallen trees and masonry.

As the emergency services battled to cope, a fresh wave of storms with winds gusting up to 70 mph swept across London and much of southern England last night.

Rescuers sought in vain for a French trawler believed to have sunk 35 miles off the coast of West Wales.

For 70,000 homes there was no power on Christmas Day. Electricity companies drafted in an army of workers who struggled in continuing bad weather to restore power.

Weathermen said the storms were the worst to hit the British Isles since December, 1993. The abnormally high winds had been building up over the Atlantic in a series of depressions for a week. Hurricane-force winds of 111 mph were registered at Aberdaron, on the Lleyn Peninsula, North Wales and 101 mph at the Valentia Observatory in County Kerry.

The full force was unleashed on Northern Ireland, the North West and North Wales, where emergency services were inundated with 999 calls. The West Country, Lancashire, Cumbria, Yorkshire and the Midlands were also badly affected.

Lancashire, especially Blackpool and Lytham St Anne's, Cheshire, North Wales, and Cumbria suffered most from the power failures. Winds of 90 mph toppled a section of Blackpool's north pier and about 100 yards of jetty was washed away. In the East Midlands thousands were blacked out and helicopters were used to survey the damage. Extra staff were brought from Scotland.

In Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, 30 families were evacuated when a boiler house chimney which tilted ten degrees threatened to fall on their homes.

Five deaths were blamed directly on the weather.

A 32-year-old woman, from Stoke-on-Trent, was killed in Bromborough, on the Wirral, when a tree crushed the car she was driving. And a woman driving a Nissan died and her passenger was injured in a collision with another car in the Penny Lane area of Liverpool. In Caernarfon a 25-year-old man was killed in a motorcycle crash.

Paul Griffiths, 26, from Bridgend, Glamorgan, was killed when he was blown into the path of two oncoming cars.

A 19-year-old man, who died in Waterville, County Kerry, Ireland, was trapped under rubble when the wall of a disused dance hall was blown down. His brother escaped with only slight injuries.

Firemen and tree surgeons freed a couple from a car after an accident at Bedyheath, in south-east London.

On the Wirral Peninsula, Merseyside, the local council declared an emergency after falling trees caused two serious accidents and closed a number of roads.

On the M53 an ambulance carrying a kidney to hospital for a transplant was involved in a 10-vehicle pile-up in which four people were hurt when a tree fell on to the carriageway.

Inspector Colin Davidson, of Merseyside Police, said the situation at the height of the gale was "like the wild west".

At sea the search for the missing French trawler began on Christmas Eve after an emergency beacon was picked up from the 50-foot Brittany-based vessel, *Toulon Trez*, which had a crew of five. Swansea coastguards said the ship had been captured by huge waves created by 65mph winds.

Wreckage believed to be from the vessel was found near where the emergency beacon was found.

Five helicopters, two RAF Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft and British and French fishing vessels were engaged in the search yesterday afternoon. Two of the helicopters carried heat-seeking equipment.

In Northern Ireland the gales swept in from the west

Continued on page 3, col 1



Prince Harry and Prince William were given presents by well-wishers after attending Christmas morning service on the Sandringham estate

Diana recalled in prayers and on TV

By EMMA WILKINS AND ALAN HAMILTON

PRINCE William and Prince Harry showed maturity beyond their years yesterday as they coped with their first Christmas since the death of their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales.

They smiled and chatted to elderly and disabled people in the crowds outside St Mary Magdalene church on the Sandringham estate after attending the traditional Christmas Day service with other members of the Royal Family.

Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry, 13, spent several minutes talking to some of the 2,000 people outside the church. The crowd was larger than usual but the atmosphere was more subdued and there were no shouts of "Happy Christmas".

The Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family listened as prayers were said for the Princess. Canon

George Hall, rector of the Sandringham group of parishes, said: "We thank God for those whom we love but see no more, Diana Princess of Wales, and all loved ones who have departed this life." Later he mentioned "all those who are experiencing sadness this Christmas".

After the service the Queen joined the Queen Mother who was chatting with the crowd and picked up her mother's walking stick when she dropped it.

In her Christmas broadcast, the highs and lows of joy and sadness were brought together by the Queen when she contrasted her sorrow at the death of Princess Diana with her pleasure at her own golden wedding celebrations.

In the ten-minute recorded address the Queen acknowledged the nation's grief at the death of her former daughter-in-law, although she stopped short of delivering any personal tribute of her own.

But the traditional programme, made for the first

time by ITN and in a more flexible and documentary format than usual, included film of the Princess's funeral, and of the mountains of floral tributes whose sheer size astonished the world.

The Queen used the twin themes of Westminster Abbey and the poet William Blake to interweave the pains and pleasures of another turbulent year for the monarchy. The Abbey, she said, had provided the setting for two events this year, "one of them almost unbearably sad and one, for Prince Philip and me, tremendously happy".

Joy and sadness were part of all our lives, the Queen said, reaching for a volume of Blake to quote: "Joy and woe are woven fine, a clothing for the soul divine".

On the day before Diana's funeral in September, the Queen returned from Balmoral and went straight on television with a live tribute to the life and work of the Princess, which was widely regarded as a highly successful, if belated,

stroke of public relations. Consideration was given to another live appearance yesterday, but it was decided that a recorded programme would be more suitable for distribution to other Commonwealth countries with widely differing time zones.

Speaking between film clips of herself, the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry inspecting the floral tributes to Diana at Buckingham and Kensington Palaces, the Queen said: "We all felt the shock and sorrow of Diana's death. Thousands upon thousands of you expressed your

grief most poignantly in the wonderful flowers and messages left in tribute to her. That was a great comfort to all those close to her."

Duty to Diana done, the Queen moved swiftly to the rest of her royal year, dwelling at length on the golden wedding and reviewing her year's work and travel. She said she and Prince Philip had been delighted to visit Pakistan and India; there was no hint that the mission, through no fault of her own, disintegrated into a diplomatic shambles.

Queen's broadcast, page 2



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Kaunda arrested
Kenneth Kaunda, the 73-year-old former President of Zambia, was arrested at his home in Lusaka early yesterday and imprisoned under the country's state of emergency laws. Page 11

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Australia \$10.00, Belgium \$10.00, Canada \$10.00, Denmark \$10.00, France \$10.00, Germany \$10.00, Greece \$10.00, Hong Kong \$10.00, India \$10.00, Italy \$10.00, Japan \$10.00, Korea \$10.00, Malaysia \$10.00, Mexico \$10.00, New Zealand \$10.00, Norway \$10.00, Portugal \$10.00, Singapore \$10.00, Spain \$10.00, Sweden \$10.00, Switzerland \$10.00, Taiwan \$10.00, Thailand \$10.00, USA \$10.00.



Britain to help bail out Korea

By JASON NISSE

BRITAIN is to contribute \$400 million (£240 million) to bail out South Korea. It was agreed on Christmas Eve in the face of the imminent collapse of the Asian economy.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, met with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to agree the funding, which is part of a \$10 billion "swift aid" package agreed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The aid follows a \$3 billion emergency loan by the World Bank, on Tuesday.

South Korea needed the money because Kim Dae-jung, president-elect, said he feared the country would not be able to pay \$15 billion of debts due soon to Western commercial banks. In exchange Mr Kim agreed to fundamental reforms of the economy which will allow Western firms to compete on an equal footing.

America is the largest contributor, paying \$1.7 billion. Richard Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, said he was confident the move would stabilise the South Korean economy and that the money would be repaid.

Korean rescue, page 40
Leading article, page 17

Blair supports minister over son in drugs case

By NICHOLAS WATT AND RICHARD FORD

TONY BLAIR has thrown his full authority behind the senior Cabinet minister whose son was arrested by police over allegations of supplying cannabis.

As the minister spent Christmas at home with his teenage son, Mr Blair's spokesman said: "Not for one second does the question of the Prime Minister having anything less than total confidence in the minister arise. The question of the minister resigning does not even arise."

The Prime Minister and his senior Cabinet colleague spoke by telephone on Monday — the day that the teenager made a statement to police. The minister accompanied his son, 17, to a police station after he was contacted by *The Mirror* with evidence that the teenager had allegedly been supplying drugs. A journalist befriended the teenager and, the paper reported, bought cannabis from him.

Dame Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, was told on Tuesday of the arrest and the papers are expected to be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service early next month.

The Prime Minister's support for the minister, who

cannot be named to protect the identity of his son, underlines Mr Blair's determination to draw a line under an episode which has gravely embarrassed the Government.

It has made the drive against juvenile crime a key plank of its law and order policy and it has maintained a hard line against drugs. The Crime and Disorder Bill, now going through Parliament, followed a White Paper entitled *No More Excuses*.

It contains a new drug treatment and testing order for offenders aged 16 and over and measures aimed at making parents more responsible for providing their children with proper care and control.

Despite the resolute response from Downing Street, the Prime Minister will face pressure to move the minister to another Cabinet post in his first ministerial reshuffle.

Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West and an advocate of the decriminalisation of cannabis for medicinal use, said: "If the boy gets away with it without a jail sentence it could be said that the fact that his father is a Government minister could have been a factor — even if it was not."

The allegations may also re-

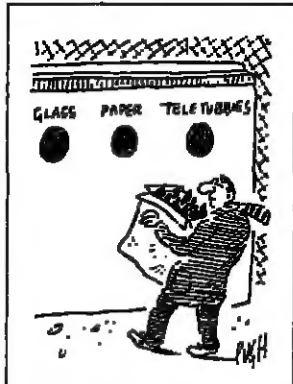
ignite the debate within the Labour Party over the decriminalisation of soft drugs. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, infuriated the Labour leadership in 1995 when she said that legalisation could be examined as a way of tackling drug abuse.

Next month the Home Office is to publish new research showing that as many as one in 20 people believes he or she has been the victim of drug-related crime in the past two years.

Mr Flynn said he hoped the episode would lead to a change in policy. "This proves that drug-pushers are not the low-life the Government pretends they are. This boy was from a respectable middle-class home. It is a hard lesson for the Government to take."

Conservatives made clear that for the moment they do not want to make political capital out of the minister's embarrassment. Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "Using drugs is dangerous and the Government is finding out that this remains true whatever the home background."

'Pros and cons', page 4



£3 billion of bargains

RECORD takings in the shops on Christmas Eve point to another bonanza as sales get into full swing today, retail analysts believe.

Do-it-yourself centres, discount furniture stores and white goods suppliers will be open today with millions of pounds worth of unsold stock offered at reduced prices.

Analysts believe that retailers may have as much as £3 billion worth of stock to dispose of.

The clothing sector has been particularly hard hit by the unseasonal mildness. Big reductions are predicted.

Barclays dismissed talk of a high street spending slump as it said spending on its Barclaycard jumped by 7 per cent in the last weekend before Christmas. Page 9

NO HO HO?

The Samaritans
0345 90 90 90

Queen speaks of sadness over the death of Princess

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen showed her determination to modernise and soften the Royal Family's image yesterday in a new-look Christmas broadcast.

The documentary-style programme, at 9 minutes 55 seconds the longest ever, was more relaxed than previous festive messages which have traditionally featured the Queen addressing the camera in a formal manner.

This year, highlights from the year were woven into the package with a voice-over commentary from the Queen, who spoke of the "almost unbearable" sadness at the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. More time was devoted to the tragedy — 2 minutes 15 seconds — than any other subject and extensive footage of the funeral and of the floral tributes outside Kensington Palace was included in the broadcast.

This year the programme was produced by ITN for the first time, thus ending the BBC's 64-year monopoly. It was broadcast in full to every Commonwealth country, also its biggest potential audience as it made its debut live on the Internet.

The full text of the broadcast was: "At the Christmas heart of this United Kingdom stands Westminster Abbey, and it was right that it provided the setting for two events this year, one of them almost unbearably sad, and one, for Prince Philip and me, tremendously happy.

Joy and sadness are part of

all our lives. Indeed, the poet William Blake tells us that: 'Joy and woe are woven fine, A clothing for the soul divine, Under every grief and pine runs a joy with silken twine'. This interweaving of joy and woe has been very much brought home to me and my family during the last months. We all felt the shock and sorrow of Diana's death.

Thousands upon thousands of you expressed your grief most poignantly in the wonderful flowers and messages left in tribute to her. That was

Being united is the glue that bonds together a family, a country, a commonwealth

a great comfort to all those close to her.

But Prince Philip and I also knew the joy of our Golden Wedding. We were glad to be able to share this joy at Buckingham Palace with many others couples, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

Then, on our anniversary day, came a very different service at Westminster Abbey, this time 'the silken twine', a service of thanksgiving for our 50 happy years together. And,

after that service, a chance to meet and chat to so many people.

I will never forget that day, nor a day five years ago when Windsor Castle suffered a terrible fire. More than a hundred rooms were badly damaged. This is how St George's Hall looked then [pictures of wreckage]. And this is how it looks now — wonderful [pictures of the restoration].

So the disaster of 1992 actually brought opportunities for all sorts of people to display their range of craftsmanship and skills, their love of history, and their faith in the future. Last month the restoration of the castle was completed and everyone involved gathered together to celebrate.

The castle is shortly to be open again for all to see, a mixture of the original with later additions and alterations, a vigorous blend of the old and the new.

And so it has been in the Commonwealth. Prince Philip and I were touched by the way the Canadian people welcomed us again to Canada. We were delighted to be invited to visit Pakistan and India on the 50th anniversary of their Independence, and to celebrate their achievements since 1947.

The Prince of Wales represented Britain when the people of Hong Kong marked their return to China in spectacular fashion [pictures of fireworks display]. Many of you might have felt

a twinge of sadness as we in Britain bade them farewell. The pictures speak for themselves, but we should be proud of the success of our partnership in Hong Kong and in how peacefully the old Empire has been laid to rest. Out of the old Empire sprang the Commonwealth family of nations that we know today, and that, too, has grown and changed.

In October, 51 representatives of Commonwealth governments met in Edinburgh, very much in the spirit of a family gathering. We all enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones, but there was also an important business to be

done. Here, with the Prime Minister of Grenada, we are discussing the drugs problem [pictures of discussion].

The world saw that the Commonwealth can make a major contribution to international relations and prosperity. The meeting also showed that unity and diversity can go hand in hand.

Recent developments at home, which have allowed Scotland and Wales greater say in the way they are governed, should be seen in that light and as proof that the kingdom can still enjoy all the benefits of remaining united. Being united — that is, feeling

a unity of purpose — is the glue that bonds together the members of a family, a country, a commonwealth. Without it, the parts are only fragments of a whole, with it we can be much more than the sum of those fragments.

For most of us this is a happy family day. But I am well aware that there are many of you who are alone, or bereaved, or suffering. My heart goes out to you, and I pray that we, the more fortunate ones, can write to lend a helping hand wherever it is needed, and not 'pass by on the other side'.

Saint Paul spoke of the first

Christmas as the kindness of God dawning upon the world. The world needs that kindness now more than ever — the kindness and consideration for others that disarms malice and which allows us to get on with one another with respect and affection.

Christmas reaffirms that God is with us today. But, as I have discovered afresh for myself this year, he is always present in the kindness shown by our neighbours and in the love of our friends and family. God bless you all and Happy Christmas.

Leading article, page 17



The Queen making her Christmas television broadcast, which was expected to attract its largest audience

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman on neglect charge

A Doncaster woman has appeared in court accused of neglecting three children days after her 17-year-old son died of suspected malnutrition. The boy, who weighed four stone, was found in his bedroom earlier this month.

The emaciated teenager was taken to hospital by paramedics but died soon afterwards. Police later arrested a 44-year-old divorcee. She was questioned about the boy's death and charged with neglecting three other children.

The woman appeared in court in Doncaster on Wednesday and was remanded in custody until the new year. An inquest on the dead schoolboy, who had been studying for his A levels, was halted by the coroner.

76-year marriage

A couple who have been married for 76 years are claiming Britain's longest union. John and Madge Briers, of Darrington, West Yorkshire, both 95, married on Christmas Eve 1921. Mr Briers, a mining engineer, worked abroad for 32 years but they made frequent trips to see each other. Their daughter Betty, 75, lives with them.

Car girls named

Two 17-year-old girls who died when their car went out of control and collided with an oncoming vehicle were named as Helen Jordan, who was driving, and Kathryn Mock, both of Wickford, Essex. The accident happened on the A130 near Remden on Tuesday night. A middle-aged couple in the other car received minor injuries.

One-way ticket

Badgers were given a one-way trapdoor to leave a honeycomb of sets, during repairs on a steam-train embankment which they had undermined at Havenstreet, Isle of Wight. The protected animals moved to a bank in a cutting further down the line. Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture served as advisers on the operation.

Fowl good turn

Two policemen came to the rescue of two disabled people in Brentwood, Essex, who were unable to remove their cooked turkey from the oven after a friend had earlier helped to put it in. Sheila Kingston said: "We've had a sample now it's out of the oven and it seems the policemen came at just the right time — it's done to perfection."

Instead of Christmas, a two-minute call

By STEPHEN FARRELL

TWO thousand miles from the Christmas dinner tables they expected to be gracing, the crew of HMS *Invincible* yesterday shrugged off their disappointment and celebrated somewhere off Cyprus.

The aircraft carrier was due home at Portsmouth for the holiday but was diverted from the West Indies to the eastern Mediterranean during the crisis over Iraq's ban on UN weapons inspectors. It will remain deployed until further notice.

The 1,200 sailors and 100 RAF crew aboard were given free two-minute calls home. Most will receive no presents as they were expecting to receive them in person. Among the disappointed relatives, Claire Clarke, 31, who is seven months pregnant, said

that her two children were missing their father, a leading steward on board. Mrs Clarke, of Hilsa, Portsmouth, said: "We are so disappointed. We were really looking forward to being together. It really gets to you. You think: 'There goes the Navy again, disrupting our lives.' But no matter how much you dislike it, it's their job."

Invincible is providing cover for HMS *Conventry*, the Armilla Patrol vessel in the Gulf, whose sailors were among dozens of Service personnel around the world to receive calls from George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, yesterday thanking them for performing their duties. He contacted peacekeeping soldiers in Bosnia, Bosnia, and RAF Tornado staff in Turkey and Saudi Arabia patrolling no-fly zones over Iraq.

RAF families on one of the world's

remotest airbases, Goose Bay in northern Canada, received a Hercules transporter load of Christmas supplies from the supermarket chain Sainsbury's, flown in from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire.

British officials in Cyprus dismissed suggestions that Britain failed to intervene to secure the release of a Briton on a ship seized by its mainly Syrian crew. James Wilkinson was escorted off the 16,500-ton timber carrier *Blue Breeze* in high seas off Cyprus by police at midnight on Tuesday. Its crew sailed the Panamanian-flagged ship to Latakia, Syria.

Norma Reid, duty officer at the British High Commission in Nicaragua, said: "Mr Wilkinson had acknowledged it was thanks to the action we took with the Panamanians that he was a free man." A senior official of the

Cyprus merchant shipping department had said earlier that Britain did not intervene to get Mr Wilkinson off the ship earlier because it felt that it had no jurisdiction.

Mr Wilkinson, acting on behalf of a European bank that held the mortgage on the vessel, embarked on the Syrian-owned ship at Lagos, Nigeria, with instructions to sail the ship to Gibraltar. The 23-member crew failed to heed his orders and switched course towards Latakia. Authorities were informed of the situation when Mr Wilkinson sent a coded message to his superiors saying that he felt threatened.

Ms Reid said the Foreign Office contacted the Panamanian authorities and obtained permission that enabled the Cypriot authorities to get Mr Wilkinson off the ship.

Young want peace, says Belfast pupil

A BELFAST schoolgirl yesterday expressed the hopes of Northern Ireland's young people for peace, in Channel 4's *Alternative Christmas Message* (Carol Midgley writes). In a five-minute broadcast featuring her own poetry, Margaret Gibney, who met the Prime Minister in the summer, told of how today's teenagers were unencumbered by past grievances and hatreds.

Margaret, 13, who is from the Shankill area, had impressed Channel 4's

chief executive, Michael Jackson, with her letter-writing campaign to 150 world leaders calling for an end to war. She had been invited to Downing Street by Tony Blair where she urged him not to abandon the search for a solution to the Province's problems.

Margaret commissioned her classmates to appear in the film, which was recorded recently. Earlier this week she appeared on television when the Duchess of Kent presented her with a Champion Children award.

Pride precedes MP's fall from favour with voters

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

NEW Labour women MPs who accuse the Tories of sexism and rudeness can take comfort from a television documentary: things could have been worse.

Campaign Confessions to be shown this weekend reveals a degree of arrogance from one defeated Tory that makes many of his victorious colleagues look like models of humility.

Tony Marlow, the Eurosceptic who lost Northampton North for the Tories on May 1, is one of ten election candidates who feature in the fly-on-the-wall documentary about the run-up to polling day.

As he chases votes in the marginal seat, Mr Marlow is heard asking one elector "to

help me stop the Europeans from taking over". The man says he will not support the Tories. Mr Marlow tells aides: "He's an ugly-looking sod. He's voting Labour."

After a bruising encounter with a woman who argues eloquently against the Tories' education policies, Mr Marlow berates his team: "You let me in for a school teacher. Don't you let me in for a school teacher again. They're half intelligent, that's the problem. People ought to be one thing or the other."

As polling day dawns, Mr Marlow — who describes Tony Blair as "that great grinning moron" — is asked whether he follows any rituals to bring him luck. "I might

crucify the odd feminist or something," he says.

Unlike Mr Marlow, who continues to insist that the opinion polls are wrong until the 10,000 Labour majority over him is declared, other Tories are more canny.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, who retained the seat of Wealden in Sussex, is aware that sleaze is hurting the Conservative campaign. "One would almost wish that there had been one great big scandal involving one person — the sort of thing we hear about in French politics — but here it's been a series of sexual scandals."

The programme also follows Kim Howells, now a Minister at the Department



Marlow: convinced the opinion polls were wrong

for Education and Employment, as he campaigns in the safe seat of Pontypriod. Dr Howells admits to doubts about the party's strategy of putting Tony Blair so firmly at the heart of its campaign. "But I always mistrust the big ideas and the bright young things that we employ to come up with them."

Campaign Confessions, 4.25pm BBC2, Saturday and Sunday.

Plea over World Cup goal

Bid to stage tournament may rest on fans' record, reports Phil Webster

THE Government will step up its efforts today to help England to win the battle to stage the 2006 World Cup, with a warning to football fans to stay away from the finals in France next summer unless they have tickets.

Ministers hope that England may be edging ahead of Germany as the leading European candidate for 2006, and Tony Blair has urged colleagues to do all they can to assist the bid. The behaviour of England supporters next year could have a crucial bearing on the decision by the 24-man executive of Fifa, the sport's governing body.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said yesterday that if England supporters behaved well in France, it would do much to strengthen the bid:

"They can play their part not just in helping England to do well in 1998, but in the campaign to bring the World Cup here eight years later."

Today the Home Office will back up the campaign by warning fans not to buy tickets in advance to forget any idea of travelling to France in the hope of securing them there. Most of the tickets will be sold beforehand, and ministers believe the prospect of supporters roaming around France in the hope of picking them up at the black market would be a recipe for trouble. Although there will always be a minority of hardcore hooligans bent on trouble — from other countries just as much as from England — the authorities will find it

easier to deal with them if other true fans are not wandering around trying to find tickets for matches.

Football Association officials say that the high-level political backing for the bid is causing massive interest in other countries and is proving an important boost. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, and Sir Bobby Charlton, a hero of England's 1966 winning team, recently returned from a visit to the United States, Trinidad and Costa Rica, to see three of the executive members.

One of the bid organisers said: "There is a lot of interest around the world in the new Blair Government and people seem genuinely impressed that he has put his weight behind this bid. Another big

factor is the huge interest in English football at present with so many foreign stars playing in the Premiership.

"Finally, the success we had in staging Euro '96, and the fact that we have so many fine stadiums, brought up to date after the implementation of the Taylor report on Hillsborough, are proving to be big pluses for us." South Africa may be England's main rival from outside Europe.

Mr Banks said yesterday that England was ready to stage another World Cup: "When the decision on 2006 is made, we want it to be on merit. We don't want people saying that we lost our chance because some of our supporters let us down in France. If there is serious trouble, it will jeopardise our chances."

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هكمان الذهل

Anonymous tip-off sparked newspaper inquiry that ended with 17-year-old accused of selling cannabis

Minister's son 'spoke of pros and cons of drug'

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE TRAP

AN ANONYMOUS telephone call to the newsroom of *The Mirror* launched the inquiry that led to the teenage son of a senior Cabinet minister being arrested for allegedly supplying cannabis.

It was an investigation that involved reporters claiming they were "trainee estate agents" and conversations in a pub about raves, and rumours of cocaine-taking by celebrities.

It ended with a senior member of Tony Blair's Government accompanying his son to a police station.

The tip-off was made in a telephone call to Dawn Alford, a reporter on *The Mirror*, shortly before Christmas. The caller made certain allegations about the minister's 17-year-old son. Miss Alford was told: "Watch this pub, not only will you be amazed at what he's doing but you will also be very surprised at who his parents are."

Miss Alford and a colleague went to the crowded London pub on a Saturday night and, according to *The Mirror*, five minutes after they arrived the minister's son, dressed in a sweat shirt, jeans and T-shirt, walked in. Within minutes, Miss Alford and her colleague were talking to him and four of his friends, who took it in turn to buy rounds of lager, about festivals and rock con-

certs. About 30 minutes later, the subject of drugs was said to have been raised as the Cabinet minister's son talked about raving, the legal drug poppers, and rumours of cocaine-taking by celebrities.

According to *The Mirror*, the conversation later moved to cannabis as the youth talked about the pros and cons of hash (resin) or grass (leaves). Miss Alford said that the minister's son then offered to sell her cannabis in a resin form. He allegedly said a friend had cannabis to sell "at 10s" and went on to explain that the expression meant the hash cost £10 and was likely to be enough to make ten joints. He is alleged to have winked at her and added:

"Leave it to me, I'll see what I can do."

Ten minutes later the youth allegedly tapped her on the shoulder and told her to accompany him outside the pub. There, opposite a magistrates' court, the teenager allegedly handed over a small, clear plastic bag and said it was "good strong hash" before taking the £10 note. He allegedly gave Miss Alford his telephone number and they arranged to meet again.

On the next morning, the newspaper arranged for the drug to be sent to a laboratory in London, where it was received on December 15. The tests showed that the sample was cannabis resin weighing 1.92 grams. On December 17,

the newspaper received confirmation in the form of a written certificate of analysis.

The Mirror says it was later told that the minister's son planned to attend a party on December 20 at a flat in London where harder drugs were likely to be available. It was then that the paper decided to contact the minister to inform him of the alleged activities of his son. On the afternoon of December 20 Piers Morgan, the Editor, called the minister and outlined the details of the investigation.

The minister promised to investigate the allegations himself. After talking to his son, he contacted Downing Street to inform the Prime Minister's office of the situation and, at 6pm on Monday, accompanied the youth to a police station in London.

They were taken into a small room where the teenager made a statement to police. The minister asked for no special privileges and insisted that the law should take its normal course.

Police cautioned the teenager and warned him that anything he said might be used in evidence. He was asked to sign the statement confirming it was an accurate account of what he had just told them. He was released on bail and told he would have to report back to the police station at a later date.

THE DRUG

CANNABIS is by far the most popular illegal drug in Britain and has been tried by a third of people aged 16 to 29. Users are from all social groups. A Home Office survey of 11,000 households found that 35 per cent of people aged 16-19 had used cannabis, 27 per cent in the past year and 16 per cent in the previous month. In the 20-24 age group, 42 per cent of men and 16 per cent of women had used cannabis. 24 per cent in the past year and 16 per cent in the previous month. In the 25-29 group, the figures were 32 per cent, 15 per cent and 8 per cent. Cannabis comes in several forms: marijuana, comprising the heads of female plants; cannabis resin, a compressed brown or black powder that is heated or crumbled for use; and, more rarely, cannabis oil. All forms can be smoked, pure or mixed with tobacco, and eaten, usually in cakes. The drug gives a feeling of relaxed wellbeing lasting about two hours.



This cannabis smoking scene on American TV was condemned by drug officials

Why the teenager's identity is kept secret

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

STRICT laws bar the media from identifying under-18s in court proceedings. The restrictions include information such as a parent's exact position.

Only in exceptional circumstances can courts name juveniles, although Conservative and Labour Governments have moved to give greater discretion to judges and magistrates to identify youngsters as part of "naming and shaming".

The protective curbs were first introduced in the Children and Young Persons Act of

THE LAW

1933, which stated that "no newspaper report of any proceedings in a youth court shall reveal the name, address, or school or include any particulars calculated to lead to the identification of any child or young person concerned in these proceedings".

Even though the youth has yet to appear in court, the restrictions are in operation because he has been arrested. Under the 1981 Contempt of Court Act, the legal proceedings are "active".

Although Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, was told about the case on Tuesday, it is not thought that she will deal personally with the police file when it is passed to the CPS early next month. Officials in her department will decide whether the teenager should be charged, taking into account factors such as whether courts were likely to impose only a nominal fine, and whether the incident was an isolated event arising from a misjudgment.

Most 17 year olds caught with a small amount of cannabis receive only a police caution. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "In London, virtually all persons found in possession of a small amount of cannabis would be cautioned. If the person was supplying small amounts, the most likely outcome of a court hearing would be a fine, a conditional discharge or possibly a small period of community service such as helping out at an old people's home."

If the courts were to decide on a tougher penalty, they could order reports on the youth, his family background and school record before deciding on what punishment to impose.

MPs vulnerable to family scandal

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE CHILDREN

POLITICIANS of every hue, from Prime Ministers to backbenchers, have long been embarrassed by wayward children. The pressures of a political career make it difficult to exercise authority over their offspring.

Two of Winston Churchill's children suffered from alcohol abuse. In 1957, two years after her father had stood down as Prime Minister, Sarah Churchill was arrested in Los Angeles on a charge of drunkenness and fined \$50.

Lord Shore of Stepney, the former Labour Cabinet minister, and his wife, Elizabeth, a senior civil servant, were devastated in 1977 when their son, Piers, 20, was found dead in a London squat after a drinking binge. He was awaiting sentence on a drugs charge.

In 1986, Olivia Channon, the 22-year-old daughter of Paul Channon, then Trade and Industry Secretary, died from a combination of heroin

and alcohol. In the 1980s, Mary Parkinson, the eldest daughter of Lord Parkinson, the Conservative Party chairman, nearly died of drug overdoses.

Lord Steel of Aikwood, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats, was embarrassed in 1995 when his son, Graeme, was jailed for nine months for growing cannabis worth £20,000. Graeme advocates decriminalisation of cannabis, as do many Liberal Democrats.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, once described politics and family life as "potentially a lethal combination". In 1990, Mr Straw wrote in *The Times*: "Pressures today debilitate and undermine family life... There is the simple fact of broken evenings and late nights. For male MPs with young families, it can be bad enough. For women MPs, much worse."

When going to police becomes only choice

IT IS every parent's nightmare: the discovery that despite all the guidance from government, school and home, their child has become involved with drugs (Richard Ford writes).

Few would go as far as the Cabinet minister and handed their child in to the police. But they do not face the extra pressures of being a public figure. The minister had no option but to go to the police. To have done nothing would

THE DILEMMA

have risked the media publishing the information so as to cause maximum embarrassment.

Most parents who were asked about the issue last night said that they would not have handed their children over to the police if a small amount of cannabis was involved. One father said that first there would be an "almighty family row".

He would then talk to his child about what had been going on and contact the child's friends and their parents to raise the matter. He would probably go to the landlord of the public house where dealing was taking place.

The parent said: "I would then have a serious talk with the youngster, explaining the risks and warning him of the long-term consequences if the behaviour continued. I would warn him that any repetition would mean that I would have to go to the police and tell them what was going on. It would not be easy but it would have to be done."



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Baby Molly gives mother an unexpected Christmas gift

By Philip Delves Broughton

JULIE ANGLIN thought she was suffering from appendicitis after a day spent moving furniture. When the doctor arrived he told her: "We'd better get you into hospital. You're in labour and about to have a baby."

Miss Anglin had not even realised she was pregnant, let alone that her baby had reached full term.

Yesterday, she and her partner, David Garratt, 43, from Southwell in Nottinghamshire, shared their first Christmas with six-day-old Molly, who arrived two hours after she was taken into hospital and weighed in at 5lb 6oz.

"I had absolutely no idea I was even pregnant," Miss Anglin, 35, said. "When the doctor told me I just said, 'Oh my God, I don't believe it. I have heard about these things happening but I never thought it could be true, then it happened to me.'"

"Molly is the best Christmas present anyone could have. She is an unbelievably quiet baby, and she obviously managed to keep the news to herself."

Miss Anglin maintains that there was no reason for her to suspect she was pregnant. She had put on a few pounds, but she put that down to extra eating, while her menstrual cycle had always been irregular. "Because I'd never been pregnant before I didn't really know what to look out for. Looking back I suppose there were little signs — I had cravings for

strange foods like liver, but that's me all over."

Surprise births are not uncommon, particularly among older women who imagine their childbearing days are behind them, women with irregular periods, and women who fail to sense, as some claim to be able to do, the exact moment of conception.

Miss Anglin has given up her part-time job to look after Molly and to catch up on baby business. Before the surprise birth, the couple had given no thought to nappies, nurseries or romper suits. They are now on a steep learning curve with the help of friends and family.

Mr Garratt, Miss Anglin's partner of the past three years and a driver for the local council, said: "We have got everything now but before the weekend we did not even have a pair of baby socks."

Molly's surprise entrance has also had helped Miss Anglin's family through a difficult period. She said: "It has been a traumatic time over the past few weeks as my grandfather died. The family were in grief but Molly has come as pleasant news for everyone."

Mr Garratt admits to a certain numbness when told of his imminent fatherhood. "I was in shock. We had never planned to have children but I am so proud. I'm the happiest man alive because I don't think I could have wished for a better present."



Julie Anglin with David Garratt and Molly, "the best Christmas present anyone could have"

Season of cheer for twins with the gift of life

By Russell Jenkins

THE parents of Britain's only surviving set of Siamese twins are celebrating a special Christmas. Their daughters have thrived since an operation last summer freed them to live healthy, independent lives.

Aoife and Niamh McDonnell were joined at the chest and abdomen and shared a liver, when they were born on April 17 at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester. They were separated in a six-hour operation at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children on June 19.

It was an agonising decision to allow the surgeons, led by Professor Lewis Spitz, to go ahead with the separation. However, the sight of the two elfin-faced toddlers pushing babywalkers around the living room of their home in Longsight, Manchester, is proof, the parents say, that the decision was the right one.

Six months after the operation, the only signs of their extraordinary birth are scars on their stomachs. They are already fading. Their mother, Joan Varley, said: "They don't even need any drugs, and I really only take them back for check-ups so everyone can see them again. They are spoiled rotten."

"It has been an incredibly difficult, emotional time but

looking at them now, hearing them chuckle, I know that I would, if I had to, go through it all again. They are just the best."

Although the girls are fast developing their own personalities, they are rarely apart. They like to nuzzle each other and frequently stretch out to stroke the face of the other. Aoife is more demanding than her sister and is already trying to crawl. She is heavier, and has two teeth. Niamh, who is smaller, spent longer in intensive care.

Miss Varley and her partner, Paul McDonnell, were anxious to shield the family from the glare of publicity at the time of the operation. Now they are happy to let the world know that the girls are well, although there is a problem. The mother said: "I cannot go shopping in Stockport because I cannot go two yards without people stopping and saying how gorgeous they are, and the girls love the attention. People have been very kind."

The family was celebrating Christmas at home before a probable move to a bigger house in the new year. The long-term plan is to return to Ireland to be near Miss Varley's family of seven brothers and six sisters.

Yeast cells give clues to ageing in humans

SCIENTISTS in the US have discovered an ageing mechanism in yeast cells that may one day make it possible to slow the process of human ageing.

They have found that the yeast cells become clogged with tiny coils of the genetic material DNA which break off from the chromosomes and proliferate until the cell becomes overwhelmed and dies. These "mortal coils" — to borrow from Shakespeare — appear to be responsible for the process of cell death, at least in this kind of cell.

"It is remarkable that this mechanism of ageing in yeast cells is so simple at the molecular level," Professor Leonard Guarente and Dr David Sinclair of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology write in the journal *Cell*. "It is conceivable that inhibitors of this ageing process can be found and if so, such strategies might eventually prove useful in forestalling ageing in yeast and, perhaps, in higher organisms."

The search for the elixir of youth is a recurrent theme of fiction, from the story of Faust to Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The desire for immortality has led to countless theories of ageing, but until recently little was actually known about how deterioration in function is related to cellular and molecular changes. However, earlier

Scientists are beginning to understand how cells die, reports Nigel Hawkes

this year the MIT team identified a gene in Werner's Syndrome, a rare disease, whose carriers have symptoms resembling a speeded-up ageing process. They also showed that modifying that gene in yeast speeded ageing.

From other yeast studies they found a series of genes that appear to determine lifespan, and found that the products of these genes moved into the nucleolus — a structure in the nucleus of the cell — implying that perhaps the nucleolus was the "Achilles' heel" of cells as they get older. They found that the nucleolus eventually breaks up, preventing yeast cells from continuing to divide. The latest work identifies what it is that causes the nucleolus to grow larger and ultimately to fragment. This, the scientists say, is the accumulation of the DNA rings, which they call "extrachromosomal ribosomal DNA circles", or ERCs. They are created from lengths of DNA pinched off from the

chromosomes as the cell divides. They have found that the older the cell, the more ERCs it contains. Ultimately, they become so plentiful that they gum up the normal processes of cell division, and the cell dies.

The ERCs act as a kind of clock. Professor Guarente suggests: "Once an ERC is formed or inherited, the period of time until a lethal number of ERCs has accumulated may be the clock that determines the lifespan of the cell."

ERCs can apparently form as a result of two processes. One is damage to DNA, which occurs all the time, and is usually efficiently repaired. The suggestion is that the ERCs are part of the repair process but, paradoxically, ultimately accumulate and cause cell death. But ERCs can also be inherited, suggesting that some cells are designed to have a built-in clock that limits their lifespan.

The implications of the research are that it may one day be possible to inhibit ageing in cells that are analogous to the yeast cells used in the experiments. In mammals, these are the so-called stem cells, found in organs such as the skin, kidney, liver and blood. The scientists say: "Next it will be important to determine whether ERCs or other circular DNAs accumulate in stem cells of ageing mice or humans."

A Minor miracle makes late arrival

WHEN Richard Amner took his battered Morris Traveller to a workshop for restoration he was delighted when they told him he could collect it by Christmas. They were true to their word but failed to specify which Christmas.

Yesterday Mr Amner, 48, was able to drive his completed timber-framed Morris to visit relatives near his home in Rochford, Essex, almost five and a half years after work began.

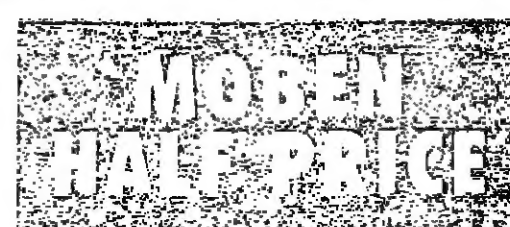
Mr Amner bought the car, named Jessica after his daughter, for £450 and took it to the workshop owned by a friend at Hockley, Essex. "Jessica was just a baby when it all started and now she is 6 and at school," he said. "I've never really pressured my friend but I told him I wanted it for this Christmas. The work has cost £8,000 and I suppose my wife has been upset because I haven't lavished as much on her as a husband should."

But he admitted that there had been a series of problems. "The recession came along, there was a fire at the workshops and there were gaps in me giving the go-ahead for various jobs to be done."

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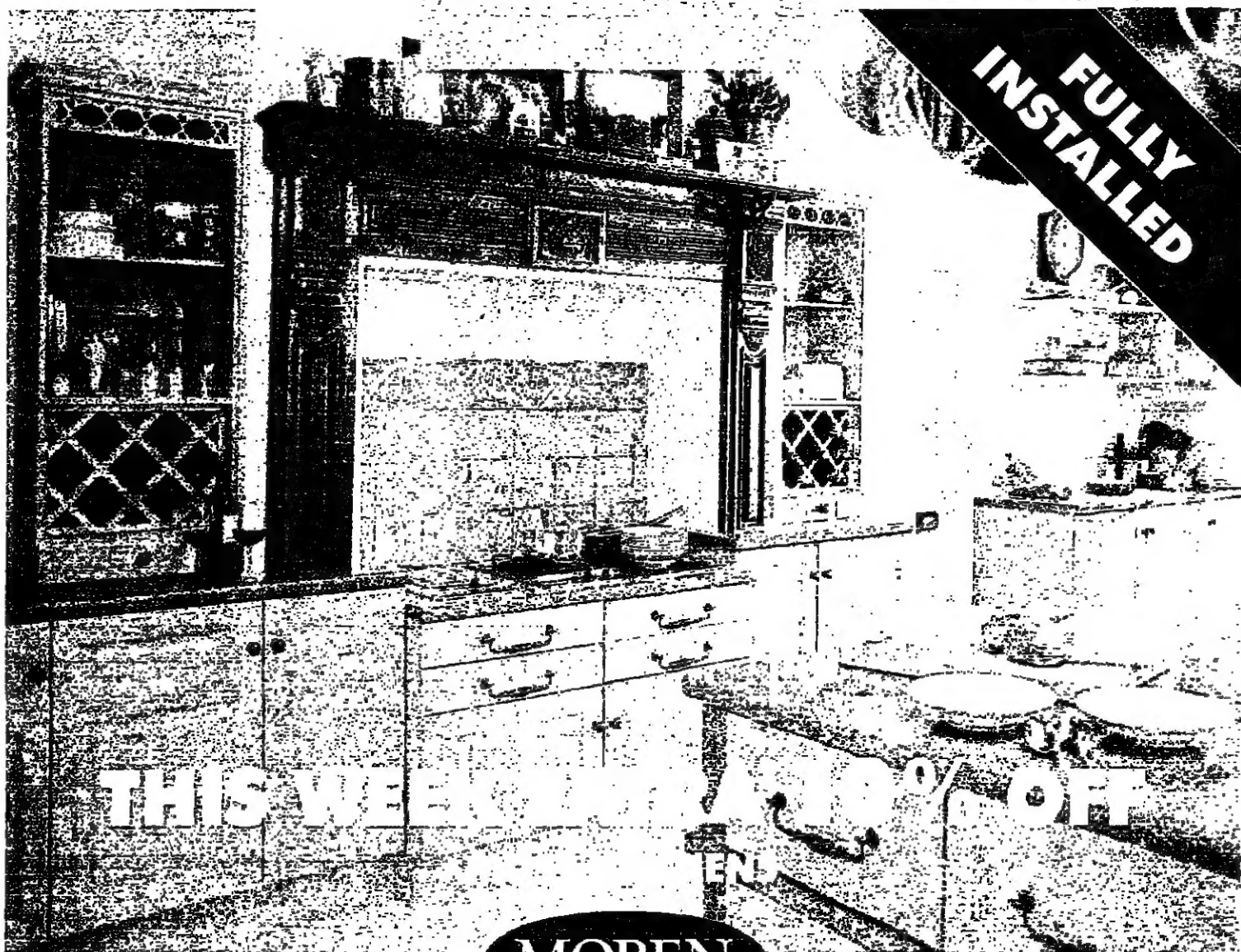
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...the new
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AS HUNT supporters gather for their biggest day of the year, an archbishop and six bishops have declared their support for a ban on the practice. In a letter to *The Times*, the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, and leading Church of England figures welcome the publication of a Christian Socialist Movement pamphlet against foxhunting.

Three hundred packs of hounds are expected to be in action today. Hunt protesters will also be out demonstrating in favour of the Private Member's Bill by the Labour backbencher Michael Foster to abolish hunting with hounds.

The archbishop writes: "We hope and pray that time will be found for legislation to ensure that this will be the last Boxing Day when the savage and terrifying death of an animal is treated as a sport."

The letter says that the treatment of "the rest of Creation is every bit as much a question of morality as unemployment or homelessness". Signatories include the Bishop of Dover, the Right Rev Richard Llewellyn; the Bishop of

Hulme, the Right Rev Colin Scott; the Bishop of Reading, the Right Rev Dominic Walker; the Bishop of Rochester, the Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali; John Austin Baker, the retired Bishop of Salisbury; and the leading Methodist Lord Soper.

Police are preparing for confrontation between hunt followers and opponents. Fears of violence have grown after three supporters were injured and 42 saboteurs

arrested at the Hursley Hambledon hunt on December 13.

Protesters wearing masks and armed with staves, iron bars and baseball bats also smashed headlights and windscreens of cars at a meet near Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire. The same group is thought to have carried out a similar attack at a meet of the Portman in Dorset two weeks earlier.

ation said the attack was the work of a group calling itself the Hunt Retribution Squad: "The tactics used were not something we would condone. We run around in fields blowing hunting horns and use voice calls to disrupt the hunt."

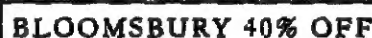
The Duke of Beaufort's meet, with which the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles both ride, is expected to attract protests although the Prince will be at Sandringham. Hunting supporters are determined to use the day to highlight opposition to the Foster Bill. It is unlikely to become law in this parliamentary session because of lack of time, but government sources have hinted that it could be included in the Criminal Justice Bill next session.

Paul Latham, of the British Field Sports Society, said: "We will see many tens of thousands of people turning out to support the hunts. Most people will be there to see a traditional scene and support something relevant to the countryside."



The Ludlow Hunt co-operated with the makers of tonight's documentary, believing it would educate the public.

Letters, page 17



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BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BLOODY scenes of a pursued fox being dug out and shot will be screened on television tonight after a hunt invited a documentary crew to film them.

The hunt was unrepentant yesterday about its decision, declaring that it would help its cause. The programme, to be shown on BBC2, includes footage of an ageing hound being shot. Viewers will be warned that certain scenes might cause distress.

The Ludlow Hunt, based in Shropshire, co-operated fully in the making of the film and gave the camera crew access to their activities. Bill Andrews, former head of the hunt, said that members had realised that the public might react strongly to certain scenes but that they had wanted to show hunting life as it was to dispel "myths".

"It will be very difficult for a lot of people to accept," he said. "But there is a gulf of difference between them and people in the countryside who deal with life and death day in, day out. I do think this accurately portrays what happens with hunting."

For the first time a documentary crew was allowed to follow the hunt throughout the 1996-97 season. Filming began before Labour was returned to power and Michael Foster, the newly elected MP for Worcester, introduced his Bill that would ban hunting

with hounds. During the Ludlow season, 63 foxes were killed, 18 of which were caught in the open with horse and hounds. The rest were chased into their burrows.

In the documentary, a fox is shown being dug out of its sanctuary by terrier-men who then shoot it through the head at the express wish of the farmer who owns the land. The fox's body is then torn apart by the hounds.

The hunt believes this will answer an urban misconception that foxes are thrown alive to the hounds. "That never happens," Mr Andrews said. "The fox is killed quickly and cleanly. What we are seeing in those scenes is fox control. It is the farmer's paycheck for letting us go across his land."

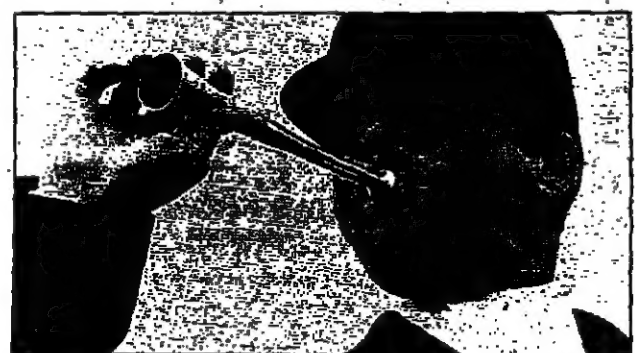
A hound which, the documentary says, could no longer keep up with the pack, is seen

being taken into a yard and held while it is shot from behind. The keeper says: "You couldn't have them as pets; they would wreck your house. They give you nine years of pleasure. Of course it is very distressing when you have to put a hound down, but people will see this is a dog which is in its home environment being put down very quickly and without pain."

Kevin Saunders, of the League Against Cruel Sports, said there was no need to kill hounds when they could no longer hunt. "If anybody needs persuading, this film will show how barbaric, callous and cold-blooded hunting really is."

The BBC said the film was "shocking and thought-provoking" at the time of a political battle on the subject.

☐ **Under the Sun: The Hunt**, BBC2, 9pm



The film shows the hunt in the 1996-97 season

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The new sound? It's just a blast from the past

By Victoria Fletcher

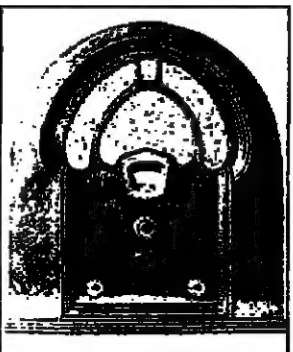
IT COULD be bad news for teenagers tinkering with their new Christmas sound systems. On the 50th anniversary of the invention of the transistor, which in turn created modern hi-fi, leading figures in a 1990s music craze say that antique valve amplifiers are better designed for playing their thumping music.

The music — known as drum n'bass — is said to be left flat by modern audio. Lemon D, a producer and disc jockey of drum n'bass, says: "The natural, warm sound valve amps give makes the beats sound alive, instead of being flat and digital."

Some older devotees of valve amplifiers still make the kind of suspicious remark about transistors that modern music fans have said with each change from vinyl to tape to compact and mini discs: that clever advertising made people make unnecessary purchases.

The invention of the transistor in New Jersey at Christmas 1947 was meant to signal the end for the fragile, glass vacuum tubes used to amplify sound since 1917. Transistors were smaller and cheaper to produce. The valve amp needed to heat up to work, and caused a small inaccuracy in how sound was reproduced.

Within nine years, the transistor had revolutionised sound technology. By the 1960s, radios had become smaller and more affordable. The transistor's inventors, John Bardeen, Walter Brat-



A Philco valve radio of 1934, in Gothic design

tain and William Shockley, received the Nobel Prize for physics in 1956. Today's tiny transistors have been refined to produce an almost perfect amplification of the original sound.

However, this perfect reproduction is precisely what some music producers reject. Lemon D, whose record label is called Valve, says: "They represent an era before digital technology came about. It's a unique sound."

The sound achieved through a valve is said to be fuller and smoother. It is this "fatter" noise which is the basis of drum n'bass music. However, fans of the valve amp are not necessarily fans of drum n'bass.

Gerry Wells owns The Vintage Wireless Museum in South London. Aged 68, he also prefers the sound produced by the valve. "It's far superior," he says. "Transistors are clinically perfect. The valve isn't, but then again

neither are our ears, so the effect is much more pleasant for our hearing."

Mr Wells has worked with valve amplifiers since he was 7, and thinks the public was fooled by advertising into converting to transistors. He says that although valves are more expensive to make than the transistor, they last far longer. In his museum, he has one valve, still working on a daily basis, which was manufactured in 1929.

Mr Wells uses original valves to repair old wirelesses, many of which are owned by very young customers. "Young people who had never heard valve amp systems are now starting to listen to them — that's why I'm in business," he added.

He feels that modern music sounds fantastic on valve hi-fi: "If you also use speakers over thirty years old, the sound is lovely. Old speakers have matured. Together with valve amps, they can make a very powerful amount of noise."

Richard McMahon, a lecturer in electrical engineering at Cambridge University, has built a valve amplifier which creates a pure sound on a par with that of the transistor hi-fi, and admits that he owns a



Sound buy: listening to a five-valve Windsor radiogram, which cost 41 guineas in 1950, before the transistor took over

valve system. He thinks that many musicians prefer the more colourful sound created by valve amplification. He said: "Some amplifiers are seen as a musical instrument with character, far less clinical than the transistor. Personally, there's a bit of magic about

their engineering. They reflect a pioneering age of electronics, and create an interest just not associated with transistor equipment."

Although valve amplifiers are still installed in a few modern hi-fis made by small independent companies,

many people are buying older models instead. Sales of antique bakelite radios from the 1930s have also increased in recent years, and can fetch up to £2,500 each.

Gad Sassower, who runs an antique wireless shop in Islington, North London, said:

"These radios were made to last and they can produce a massive amount of volume." Unfortunately, the "antiques" were built long before FM was introduced, and can tune only to medium and long wave, where buyers are unlikely to find much drum n'bass.

Boy, 4, saves epileptic mother

A BOY aged 4 who stopped traffic when his mother collapsed in the road with an epileptic fit was praised yesterday.

Anthony Severn stood with one hand up to stop cars and the other over his eyes.

His mother, Julie, 30, of Sherwood, Nottingham, suffered the fit as she was taking Anthony and his two-year-old sister, Lindsey, to nursery school. Mrs Severn said: "He was petrified because he thought we would both be run over. Anthony is a real hero because he put his own neck on the line for me. Luckily, the drivers managed to brake."

She said that both Anthony and his sister were used to her condition. Mrs Severn has been epileptic since childhood and has serious fits about once a month.

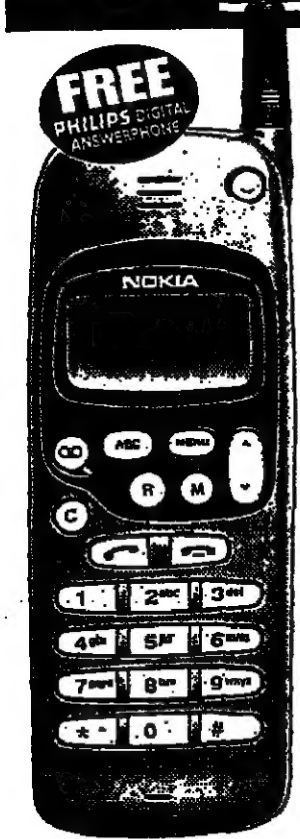
"He always tries to look after me but this was something different. He tells me it was nothing but he has told his grandma all about it," she said.

"When she picked him up from preschool later that day the first thing he did was ask if I was all right. We are very proud of him. He is a very brave little boy." (PA News)



Gad Sassower: "These radios were made to last"

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Carey urges society to rediscover its faith

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday called for a more caring society, which he said should be achieved by a restoration of Christian values.

Dr Carey, preaching at Canterbury Cathedral, said that his ministry over the past year had taken him to places where there had been human grief and problems that seemed unsurpassable. But faith had supplied hope on such occasions, as in the case of the Ugandan bishop whose wife was killed when she stepped on a landmine, or the AIDS victim in New York who faced death with cheerfulness.

Christmas "tells us there will only be peace on Earth and goodwill towards one another when we rightly balance our demands for rights with the recognition of our responsibilities towards our neighbour", he said.

Referring to the plight of the homeless and single mothers, he said that the Church should remember its humble roots. God was "not absent from the poor, the broken-hearted, the refugee and the homeless, not

Archbishop of Canterbury tells
how belief can help to deal with

problems, reports Ruth Gledhill

absent from the single mother, the person living on the breadline and the unemployed teenager, but with them as with all of us."

The story of how Jesus was born in a stable was proof that religion was not the preserve of the rich and powerful. "Here is God coming to us not with trumpets, not with the splendour of royal courts nor the trimmings of power, but in weakness — meekness and majesty, the majesty of weakness and the meekness of true divinity."

Referring to Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, he said: "Has life got any point to it? Is everything so random, so pointless, so utterly amoral that when your time comes — phut! That's it." But, he continued, "God is here already. In all the difficulties and joys of life. In the midst of the

devastation, horror and misery as well as of renewal, celebration and hope, we find this tiny child waiting for us to respond to Him."

"And it is that belief which can provide the strongest foundation for a caring Church and a caring society."

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, addressing Roman Catholics from around the world at a packed Westminster Cathedral at the main Christmas Day Mass, referred to evocative descriptions of the incarnation and the Nativity in the Gospels.

He said: "Look at the child lying there on the straw. Forget anything you have heard or read from people wanting to reduce Christmas to be no more than a myth. Like a fairy tale, one to preserve because it is traditional

or quaint." Worshippers should take time to "kneel at the crib" and profess their faith in the "great truth that God became man and dwelt among us," he said.

"Kneel at the crib and look at that child lying on the straw in the manger and then those words, glory to God in the highest and peace to persons of goodwill, will begin to dawn on your mind, and you will find yourself wanting to sing them. That is what matters."

The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, preaching at York Minster, recalled the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. "There was a quite spectacular and almost overwhelming sense of shock and grief," he said. "There was also a recognition of the Princess's human frailty, coupled with large questions about the meaning and purpose of life."

"How can the Church respond?" he asked. "It will certainly not be by changed structures or improved management, important though these may be, but rather in the contemplation of the awesome mystery which is Christmas."



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, before yesterday's service

Pope calls for well-off to aid 'new poor'

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Pope in his Christmas *urbi et orbi* to the City and the World message called yesterday for the well-off to help "the ever-growing multitude of the new poor", including the homeless and unemployed and young victims of paedophilia and drugs.

He prefaced his greetings, delivered in 56 languages, by announcing that he will visit next week the victims of the earthquake in the central Italian regions of Umbria and the Marche.

Speaking in a strong voice from the central loggia of St Peter's Basilica, the 77-year-old took up his by-now recurring theme of the ills of unbridled capitalism, saying he found "distressing... the tense silence of men and women without work and without shelter, infants and children injured and violated, adolescents enlisted in the wars of adults and young victims of drugs or attracted by deceptive myths".

The pontiff also decried the plight of refugees, "the sufferings of peoples fleeing to the mountains of their own land or seeking a safe haven on the coasts of neighbouring countries, in order to pursue the faint hope of a less precarious and more secure existence".

He praised "those who give generously to breaking down barriers of fear and aggression, promoting understanding between peoples of different origins, colour and religious creeds".

The pontiff said he hoped his greeting would reach with particular warmth "the populations of Umbria and the

Marche, stricken recently by the earthquake and still now in situations of suffering and discomfort".

"I am near to you in a special way in these days, thinking how the Son of God, when He was born at Bethlehem, did not find a place in a house, but in a stable and was placed in a manger."

The Pope said he would visit the stricken areas on January 3. The Vatican spokesman said John Paul II would stop at the village of Anagnino in the Apennines, at the epicentre of the October quake, where only seven houses remain habitable. The village is in the

worst hit diocese, Foligno. At Assisi the Pope will pray at the tomb of St Francis. In spite of such disasters, the Pope recalled that "all are called to share in the joy of Christmas... a day of extraordinary gladness". He noted that "this straying humanity of ours" is "journeying towards the third millennium".

The Pope considers that ushering in the third Christian millennium is now the main objective of his pontificate, to be marked by the special jubilee he has called in Rome. In his Christmas Eve homily, John Paul said his Christmas wish was for peace for humanity.

Some Vatican watchers saw part of his homily as an olive branch for the Jews and Israelis, which the Pope hopes will allow him to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2000.

The pontiff referred to the Jews as "the chosen people" selected "to bring to the world the Messiah, the Saviour and Redeemer of all humanity".

School assembly under threat

By Ruth Gledhill

THE traditional school assembly is in danger as pressure grows to end the legal requirement for daily worship for pupils.

The Government will face renewed pressure in the spring to end present rulings after a survey disclosed strong support from teachers.

Although churches and non-Christian groups are divided on the issue, the consultation showed strong backing for change among professional staff.

According to the *Church Times*, the Government has pledged to consider the recommendations of the consultation, which was sponsored by bodies including the religious education council and the interfaith network.

Any change is likely to be strongly opposed by the churches, although the Methodists supported

change, and the federal council of the Free Church also offered "reluctant support".

The Roman Catholic Church and a majority of the Evangelical Alliance are strongly in favour of collective worship. The Church of England declined to support or oppose it.

Jewish people and Muslims indicated that they wanted a change in the rules to allow other faith groups to hold their own acts of worship as well.

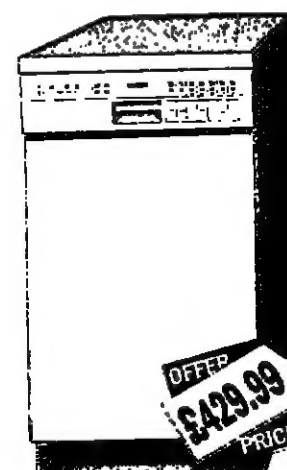
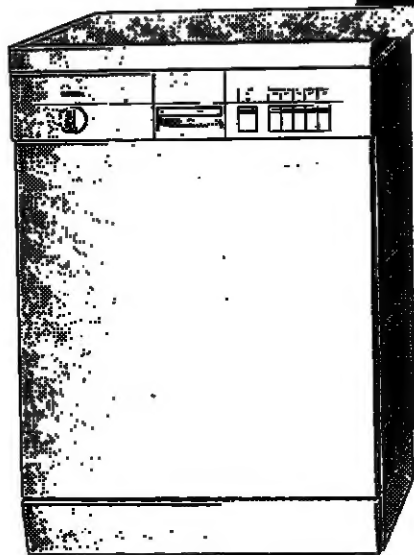
A seminar on the issue will be held in London next February, organised by Liz Paver, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, who is a member of the board of education. She believes that the requirement to hold daily worship is putting an unreasonable burden on head teachers.

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مکان الدنیا

Sales: where they are on, and what is coming off

Lisa Grainger provides counter-intelligence for shoppers who want to spy out the best bargains

ON TODAY

□ Aquascutum
100 Regent Street, W1 (0800 282922). Until Jan 31.

Up to 50 per cent off selected lines. Womenswear: silk blouses were £175, now £95; cashmere coats from £125 to £75; wool jackets were £350, sale £175; short raincoats were £350, now £175; quilted silk jackets from £225 to £125; Menswear: corduroy trousers were £125, now £65; cotton business shirts were £59, sale £39; cashmere knitwear was £225, sale £135; leisure shirts from £79 to £55.

□ Armando Pollini
35 Brook Street, W1 (0171-629 7606). Until end Jan.

From 30 to 40 per cent reductions; leather knee-length boots from £188 to £90.

□ Bertie
36 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-492 5033) and branches; inquiries (0171-380 3800).

Many items at half price; old stock items from £10 to £20.

□ Country Casuals
1-5 Poland Street, W1 (0171-287 5181) and branches (0121-212 2405).

Up to 50 per cent reduction on casual wear, chunky knitwear and most accessories.

□ Diesel
55 Argyle Street, WC1 (0171-833 2255).

Up to 5 per cent reduction on selected items.

□ Episode
172 Regent Street, W1 (0171-439 3561) and branches (0121-589 4274).

Black velvet trouser suit, jacket was £219, now £153; trousers were £129, sale £90.

□ Heene
261-271 Regent Street, W1 (0171-495 4003) and branches; inquiries (0171-255 2031).

Fifty per cent reduction on all sale stock. Black lace cardigan from £29.99 to £14.99; black velvet shirt from £19.99 to £9.99.

□ Jaeger
202-206 Regent Street, W1 (0171-200 4000); 100 stores nationwide; general inquiries (0171-200 4211).

Discounts 20-50 per cent, eg. 52 per cent off black beaded evening dress, 53 per cent off Cashmere sleeveless pullover.

□ Kingshill Mail Order
For Kingshill British Designer Collections catalogue and Diffusion catalogue, call 01494 890555.

25 per cent off all designer styles.

□ Miss Selfridge
All branches 0181-910 1359 or 0171-438 4182.

Short-sleeved dresses were £25, now £10; long coats with fur collar were £125, sale £65; chenille v-necks were £20, now £10.

□ Nicole Farhi
151 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-494 8388); 113 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 0877); 12 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-497 8113); 25-26 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-486 3416); 27 Hampstead High Street, NW3 (0171-435 0866). Until mid-Jan.

Up to 30 per cent reductions on selected items.

□ Oak Knoll B'Goods
17 King's Road, SW3 (0171-730 1341).

Up to 50 per cent off selected merchandise.

□ Ravel
184-188 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-436 3126) and branches (0171-631 0234).

No details available.

□ River Island
Branches nationwide (0181-698 8822).

Black hooded trousers were £24.99, now £12.99; chocolate pin-stripe jacket was £49.99, sale £29.99.

□ Russell & Bromley
24-25 New Bond Street, London W1; 41 branches (0171-629 0403).

Discounts 30-50 per cent.

□ Valentino
74 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 5853); Miss Valentino, 160 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-493 2698). Until mid-Jan.

Up to 60 per cent off selected items.

□ Whistles
12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-487 4844).

20-50 per cent off selected items.

□ Jane Churchill
151 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-730 9847) until Jan 15; Liberty, Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 1234); 13 Piccadilly, Cambridge (01223 325211); check branches for dates.

Up to 30 per cent reduction on selected items.

STARTING TOMORROW
□ Austin Reed
Branches nationwide (0800 585470).

Menswear: double-breasted navy suit was £279, now £199. Women's wear: co-ordinating trousers were £89.50, sale £44.75; tan/stone/navy mock chambray shirts were £99, now £49.50; navy double-breasted jacket was £259, sale price £129.50.

□ Baccarat
Regent Street megastore sale. For branches dates, 0171-647 4200.

Up to 50 per cent reductions.

□ Betty Jackson
311 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-589 7884).

All reductions 30 per cent: eg. sheepskin coat was £780, now £546; marino sweaters were £143, sale £100; suede trousers were £429, now £300.

□ Bhs
252-258 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-262 3288); 139 branches; inquiries (0171-380 3800).

Up to 30 per cent off selected items across all departments.

□ Burberry
18-22 Haymarket, SW1; 165 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 4060).

Selected items up to 50 per cent off, eg. women's trenchcoats were £375, sale £237; cashmere coats were £895, now £595; men's checked shirts £85, now £45; blazers were £325, sale £195.

□ Burton
Branches nationwide (0171-291-2511).

Many lines up to a third off.

□ C&A
Branches nationwide (0171-629 1244).

Up to 50 per cent off clothes for all the family.

□ Debenhams
334-348 Oxford Street, W1, and branches (0171-580 3000).

Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store.

□ Deans
High Street, Yeovil, Somerset (01935 444444). Until Jan 24.

Up to 50 per cent off men's and women's fashions and household goods.

□ Donna Karan
10 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 3100).

Discounts off selected items.

□ DKNY
27 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8089).

20-70 per cent off autumn/winter collection.

□ Emporio Armani
191 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-423 8818); 57-59 Long Acre, WC2 (0171-497 6882); 128 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 8080); Manchester (0161-839 8289); Glasgow (0141-552 2277).

Reductions of 30 and 50 per cent.

□ Fenwick
New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161) and branches.

Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store and extra 10 per cent off sale prices 9.30am-1pm today. Women's wear: Nicole Farhi swing coats with fake fur collar in wool/cashmere reduced from £429 to £299; Christian Lacroix plain or print jeans from £75 to £49.

□ French Connection
249 Regent Street, W1, and branches (0171-580 2507).

Up to 30 per cent off selected items.

□ Giorgio Armani
37 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 6232).

Reductions of 30 and 50 per cent.

□ Harvey Nichols
109-125 Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5000). Until Jan 11.

Up to 50 per cent off many items. During first four days additional 10 per cent discount for Harvey Nichols account holders. Tocco embroidered dress was £295, sale price £177; Donna Karan Signature charcoal stripe suit from £1,040 to £520; Galliano ruffie dress with rose was £1,025, now £512.50; CK cashmere coat was £2,340, sale £1,170. Menswear: selected Kenzo shirts were £70, sale £38; CK leather jacket from £590 to £354; Giorgio Armani wool suit was £615, now £399; Dolce & Gabbana leather bag from £435 to £217.50; Mulberry wallpaper was £27.50 per roll, sale £7; Designers Guild duvet set was £65, now £45.

□ Hoopers
Cheltenham (01242 52505); Chichester (01243 53163); Torquay (01803 218754); Tunbridge Wells (01892 530222); Hoppers for Men, Tunbridge Wells (01892 532223) and Wimslow (01625 525381); Bradford (01274 41311); Harrogate (01423 504091). For details, call free 0800 318216.

Up to 50 per cent off co-ordinated separates, including Moschino, Mulberry, Olsen, Gerry Weber; contemporary fashions eg. Marelle, Fink, Jean-Paul; and a selection of evening wear.

□ House of Fraser
Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 5432); Dickens & Jones.

□ Oasis
292 Regent Street, W1, and

Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 7070); D.H. Evans, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 8800) and stores nationwide (0171-963 2236).

Menswear: up to 30 per cent off selected sportswear and 20 per cent off selected coats; £10 off Christian Dior dress shirts. Women's wear: up to 30 per cent off selected items. Home wear: 20-50 per cent off selected bed linen and goose-down & feather pillows; 50 per cent off selected towels; up to 50 per cent off selected cookware items. Electrical: Toshiba 21in Nissan colour television was £379.99, sale £299.99; Hoover A1100 autowasher was £399.99, now £329.99; Kenwood mini hi-fi was £329.99, sale price £229.99.

□ Joseph
26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 5470); 23 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 3123); 28 Brook Street, W1 (0171-629 4077); 124 Draycott Avenue, SW3 (0171-225 0364); 77 Fulham Road, SW3, and general inquiries 0171-623 9500.

Reductions starting at 30 per cent on selected items, including coats, trousers and leatherwear.

□ Koh Samui
65 Monmouth Street, WC2, (0171-240 4280).

Up to 60 per cent off designer clothes.

□ Kookai
123 Kensington High Street, W8; 25 branches nationwide; inquiries 0171-637 4411.

No further details available.

□ Liberty
214-220 Regent Street, W1, and branches (0171-734 1234).

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Woody and Soon-Yi honeymoon in Paris

THE film director Woody Allen, whose on-screen neuroses are mirrored often in his overwrought personal life, has married Soon-Yi Previn, the adopted daughter of his former lover, the actress Mia Farrow.

Ms Farrow, who has described the couple's relationship as sick and perverted, is unlikely to be amused by a run of events that casts her in the awkward role of Mr Allen's mother-in-law.

Mr Allen, 62, married Ms Previn, 27, at a private ceremony in Venice, a city he loves as much as his native New York. The ceremony was conducted by Massimo Cacciari, the city's extrovert Mayor, at the Palazzo Cavalli, near the Rialto Bridge on Venice's Grand Canal. He gave them a glass vase as a wedding gift — made specially in nearby Burano and depicting the city's La Fenice opera house, for whose restoration Mr Allen has been raising funds.

Beaming from ear to ear, Signor Cacciari said: "The wedding had been planned a while ago, and although we Italians are not good at keeping secrets, we were able to

A secret Venice wedding — latest twist to a saga aired in a US courtroom — leaves Mia Farrow as mother-in-law to her former lover, writes Tunku Varadarajan

keep this one secret till the end."

Neither Mr Allen nor Ms Previn would speak to the press, although Leslie Dart, the former's spokeswoman, did release a statement in which she said: "Six years ago, Woody and Soon-Yi decided that one day they would come back to Venice and get married. That city is very meaningful to them. Over the past years, they have weathered a lot together, and have always been very much in love."

Mr Allen's spokeswoman also said that he did not ask Ms Previn to sign a prenuptial agreement — prompting New York's famed divorce lawyer, Raoul Felder, to say: "Woody needs a psychiatrist more than an attorney."

The couple are reported to have arrived in Venice on Monday, where they stayed at the elegant Hotel Grini. Staff

there disclose that they took the hotel's best suite, a first-floor spread with a sumptuous view of the Grand Canal. Fittingly, the rooms had been featured by Mr Allen in his film *Everyone Says I Love You*, made last year.

The wedding took place on Tuesday evening, and was attended by Lettie Aronson, Mr Allen's sister, and a handful of very close friends. After exchanging their vows in Italian, the couple resorted to the oldest trick in the Venetian book — the gondola.

While the Mayor's men ensured that the paparazzi were kept at bay, they spent an hour on the water. Onlookers say that the two were very tactile, and that the gondolier serenaded them with a series of mellifluous arias.

They left for Paris the next day, where they are staying at the Ritz before returning to

New York in the new year. Mr Allen is booked to play the saxophone at the city's Café Carlyle on January 5. They will continue to live in their Fifth Avenue penthouse, the home which they have shared for two years.

The relationship between Mr Allen and Ms Previn is at least six years old. When news of the liaison broke, a considerable furor erupted. Ms Previn, born in South Korea, was adopted by Ms Farrow and André Previn, the conductor and pianist, when eight years old, and Mr Allen had acted as a surrogate father to her during his relationship with Ms Farrow.

In 1992, however, Ms Farrow discovered that the two were romantically involved, finding a portfolio of nude photographs of Ms Previn at Mr Allen's Manhattan apartment.

The aftermath is best described as messy. Ms Farrow is reported to have broken a chair over her daughter's head and locked her in a closet. Mr Allen lost rights to his two children, Sachel and Dylan, both of whom live with Ms Farrow.



Woody Allen and his bride in Paris, where they are staying until the new year

Hair pill heads for sale in Britain

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MAKERS of the new prescription pill approved to fight male baldness in America are hoping to make it available soon in Britain.

The British subsidiary of Merck and Co of Pennsylvania has applied for a licence to the Medical Control Agency in London. A total of 14 men in Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield took part in testing along with nearly 2,000 in America that led to approval of the pill by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The drug, Propecia, has to be taken daily. In the tests, it increased hair growth in 48 per cent of balding men after one year, with 18 per cent enjoying a moderate or even dense growth, according to an independent panel of dermatologists. The pills will cost up to \$50 (£30) a month.

The drug is not recommended for women because it causes birth defects. In 2 per cent of men it can cause loss of sex drive and impotence, effects that disappear if they stop taking the drug.

Clinton wipes slate clean for butter thief

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IT WAS only a stroke of the pen for President Clinton, but for Ray Weaver, 74, it removed the stain of the "biggest failure of my life".

Fifty years ago, Mr Weaver pleaded guilty at his US Navy court martial to stealing 4lb of butter. He was reduced one level in rank from chief radioman to radioman first class.

This year, Mr Clinton signed an executive grant of clemency, a pardon that erased the only blemish Mr Weaver ever incurred.

Yesterday, as his 11 grandchildren unwrapped their gifts, Mr Weaver was ecstatic. "It's a marvellous feeling after the 50 years I've kept this bottled up. The pardon is the biggest thing in my life."

Now retired and living in St Petersburg, Florida, Mr Weaver applied for the pardon more than a year ago. Since then, he said, he had worried that Mr Clinton would be too busy with his trip to Bosnia to grant a pardon.

Mr Weaver admitted that the chief cook at his base twice gave him 2lb of butter from supplies that he took home to his wife.

He served another 16 years in the Navy, but the number of chief radiomen was reduced and he never recovered his former rank.

Mr Weaver was one of 21 Americans to receive Christmas pardons for long-ago federal offences ranging from bank robbery to fraud and operating a bootleg still. All now lead lives beyond reproach but felt the need to seek presidential redemption.

Among them was Ralph

Limbaugh, 66, who, with a conviction for stealing a case of sparking plugs on his record, has been unable to own a gun for more than 20 years. A life member of the National Rifle Association, he can now take up hunting again.

In New York, Republican Governor George Pataki commuted long terms for three first-time offenders, all model prisoners, who had fallen victim to the state's drug-sentencing codes. They had received mandatory terms of 15 years to life for low-level crimes.

Such unbending laws are part of an increasing national problem that has clogged America's jails with non-violent drug offenders who would be better off receiving treatment for addiction or performing community work.

The best-known beneficiary yesterday was Angela Thompson, who was sentenced in 1989 at the age of 17 for trying to sell 2oz of cocaine to an undercover police officer at the direction of her uncle, a Harlem drug dealer who was also her legal guardian.

The trial judge had tried to pass a lesser sentence but was overruled by the state appeal court. "This case is bringing me to tears," the judge wrote in protest.

Miss Thompson, who has served eight years and three months, passed high school and college courses in prison and has been supervising a centre where children visit their imprisoned mothers. She was not eligible for parole until September 2004.

Food flights save Afghan victims

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of Shia Muslims surrounded by Sunni forces in central Afghanistan are being saved from starvation by emergency food deliveries from World Food Programme aircraft.

Up to 2,500 tonnes of food are being delivered so the Shias can survive the winter. They are blockaded by Taliban militants who have stopped food lorries getting into the Bamian region — one of the few they have failed to capture. The first relief aircraft, flying out of the Pakistani border city of Peshawar, carried a storage shelter and equipment for handling food.

The World Food Programme announced: "The Taliban blockade on the south and civil strife in the north have meant that very little food has been able to enter or leave the area."

With shortages so acute, wheat prices are beyond the pockets of all but a few. Trading across the region's borders has halted, driving people deeper into poverty. Taliban has been refusing to let food be delivered on the ground that it would fall into

the hands of opposition troops. The prospect of mass starvation finally persuaded them to relent.

The World Food Programme has been trying to get food in since May, but with the collapse of security all stocks were looted on the road. Bamian province, controlled by the Hezb-i-Wahadat faction, is incapable of producing enough food. Relief supplies will be distributed to 160,000 people, most malnourished and desperate.

The United Nations Security Council has deplored the unwillingness of warring groups to lay down arms and fears the country is in danger of disintegrating. The UN also expressed concern about mass killings, details of which were revealed after officials found graves for up to 2,000 fighters, mostly Taliban.

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Kaunda sent to jail over coup attempt

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

KENNETH KAUNDA, the 73-year-old former President of Zambia, was arrested early yesterday at his home in Lusaka, the capital, and imprisoned under the country's state of emergency laws — presumably on the orders of Frederick Chiluba, his successor as head of state.

Dr Kaunda's son, Wezi, said the Christmas Day arrest was probably timed to try to avoid publicity. "They obviously thought that journalists would not be working and that lawyers would be difficult to track down," he said.

Wezi Kaunda and his father's housekeeper were the only visitors permitted to see Dr Kaunda at Kamwala holding prison. "The conditions in there are terrible. It is life-infested," said Wezi Kaunda, adding that he believed his father was held out of "vindictiveness, to settle old scores".

No charge has been laid against Dr Kaunda, who returned to Zambia last Sunday after an absence of nearly two months. However, his arrest and detention are clearly linked to an unsuccessful coup attempt carried out by a group of junior army officers on October 28.

Dr Kaunda, who was in South Africa at the time and has denied any connection with the coup attempt, has spent the last two months visiting southern African countries and addressing meetings and groups of businessmen. He has described

of the world's most indebted nations. My Chiluba's Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) swept to power in 1991 in a wave of popular support for ending the single-party system, but an increasingly brutal political culture, which has tarnished his image as a democrat, has recently prompted some Western do-

if they took him under the detention laws. Under the state of emergency regulations, detainees can be held for 28 days without charge or access to lawyers. Since it was imposed after the coup attempt at least 90 people, many of them opposition politicians, have been held.

Up to 100 paramilitary policemen, armed with AK47 assault rifles, surrounded Dr Kaunda's home in Lusaka's Roma suburb before dawn yesterday. His son denied them access without warrants, but after a stand-off lasting nearly three hours Dr Kaunda agreed to go to police headquarters.

His spokesman, Mohabi Lungu, said: "The commander said they just wanted to have an interview. But it is part of a personal vendetta by Chiluba and his cohorts. They will do anything to try to get at the old man."

Dr Kaunda was driven off from his home in a convoy of pick-up trucks manned by armed police. Soon after his arrival at police headquarters, where the detention order was served on him, he was transferred to the prison. A small Christmas morning crowd had gathered outside the building, and as he clambered into the back of a car Dr Kaunda waved a white handkerchief, his political trademark, and asked them to remain calm.

He said: "I have been detained for 28 days. I don't know why. It doesn't make sense."

My father was taken to jail out of vindictiveness to settle old scores. The conditions there are terrible

Mr Chiluba and his Government as "thieves and liars".

But his own record as President of Zambia, from independence from Britain in 1964 until his defeat by Mr Chiluba in the country's first multi-party elections for 27 years, does not bear close scrutiny. He inherited a country with vast reserves of copper and its valuable by-product, cobalt, but by the mid-1970s it had become one

nor governments to suspend aid. This year Dr Kaunda was wounded in the head by a gunshot when police broke up a rally of his United National Independence Party which he believed was an attempt to kill him.

His son said yesterday that he feared that his father would be tortured in Lusaka's crowded Kamwala holding prison. He said: "I fear that something very serious will happen



Former President Kaunda, escorted by armed guards, is driven away in a police vehicle to the Lusaka prison

Green ribbons show anger at Mugabe land seizures

Shadow of ruin falls on farmers of Zimbabwe, writes Jan Raath in Beatrice



THERE is unrelenting orderliness here. You would call it obsessive-compulsive if you did not know it was a kind of love.

The rows of chest-high tobacco plants could have been fixed by slide rule. The blue enamel surface of the water pump that feeds them is wiped shiny clean. The land in the game section look as if they have come back from a grooming at the pet's parlour.

Guy Watson-Smith and the other farmers in the Beatrice district, 43 miles south of Harare, and many of their labourers, wear a small green ribbon in their shirts as a quiet protest against President Mugabe's land takeover. Guy, 48, owns two farms. On Alamein, 2,000 acres, the blue-green, elephant-eared leaf fills the space between horizons. It is one of the biggest one-farm tobacco producers in the country.

Elim, 1,260 acres, is next door. Apart from 100 acres of fragile sand, the land is vlei (swamp) with clay soil incapable of growing any crop known to man, says Guy. Its

coarse, stringy grass can sustain only the giraffe, kudu, impala, eland, zebra, sable, tsessebe and gnu he breeds for game ranchers.

The reason d'être of Elim is water. Beatrice is a high-risk farming area. Rainfall is chronically erratic and neither of the table-flat properties has a river or a catchment.

The Watson-Smiths changed the landscape. In 1991 three bulldozers scooped out clay to build a four-walled reservoir 30ft high and covering 25 acres, the biggest walled dam in the country, for £660,000. A great pump pushes water from the Mupfure river over two miles distant into the reservoir, and

then another three miles into the fields of Alamein.

Elim is indispensable to Alamein. Guy spent £83,000 installing drip irrigation on 17 acres this year. He went to Israel to study the technology.

There is no ostentatious wealth. The plain homestead was here when they moved in. He drives a Range Rover, but it is nine years old and worked hard. There is an easy, bantering rapport between the boss and his 98 workers. Nothing could be further from the beer-guzzled, sjambok-wielding Rhodesian farmer caricature.

On November 28, President Mugabe tossed all this into an abyss of insecurity. Elim is one of the 1,471 commercial

farms gazetted for "compulsory acquisition". No one had come to assess Alamein, Elim or any of the 30-odd farms listed in the district, about a third of the total. Most of them are top producers. "It's as if they were trying to pick the eyes out of the district," he said. "I don't know who did it."

It is the second time politics and race have torn at the Watson-Smiths' roots. In 1983, Guy had to sell the farm on which he was brought up in the Bindura district to the Government. He packed up his family and his 30 workers with their families and moved to Beatrice.

I visited Hanagwe farm in Bindura. It was resettled in 1985 by 57 families of the Fundanvhu co-operative. The homestead and tobacco barns are derelict. There are ten acres of wilting tobacco. The co-op owes £290,000 (£30,000) to the bank, and there is no hope of paying it back. "We are falling," said Stanley Zaza, the production manager. "It is all nyokonyoka [chaos] here."

Moi goes on cash spree in search of votes

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

MONEY and politics have become bosom friends in Kenya, and with voters preparing to go to the polls on Monday the funds are flowing. Worst offender is the ruling party of President Moi. "They're dishing out money all over the place," said one observer. "They don't know how to do it any other way."

According to sources close to the presidential State House, Kenya African National Union (KANU) parliamentary candidates have been receiving handouts of 1 million Kenyan shillings cash (about £100,000) to oil their campaigns. The money is distributed at election rallies, 50 or 100 shillings at a time. At one rally near Nairobi, a KANU candidate was almost lynched after his cash supply ran low.

On election day itself there is expected to be widespread buying of votes. In poor rural areas, voters can be bribed for the price of a kilo of sugar. In Northern Province, the provincial administration is reported to be doing just that — handing out bags of sugar and other foodstuffs on behalf of the ruling party.

"There's definitely a lot of rigging going on," said one Western diplomat. "Opposition parties are not above such tricks, but it's mostly KANU because they're the ones with access to funds."

There have been reports of KANU officials touring remote areas, buying up voters' cards. The going price is 500 shillings. The areas most affected are those provinces with strong opposition followings. "Every successful KANU politician has an Asian businessman in the background," said Sudhir Vidyarthi, whose firm Colourprint produces nearly all the opposition posters. "These businessmen want to protect their interests... they know they'll be tolerated as long as they come up with the money."



Guy Watson-Smith with his wife, Victoria, and son, Adam, outside their homestead at Alamein farm, Zimbabwe

Floods blamed for spread of African killer disease

FROM KARIN DAVIES IN NAIROBI

MEDICAL experts spent yesterday collecting specimens from Kenyans and Somalis stricken by an undiagnosed illness that has caused at least 45 people to haemorrhage to death.

The Somali Red Cross Society confirmed last night an

outbreak in southern Somalia of a disease similar to that reported across the border in Kenya. Red Cross officials said 42 people have died in Torotorow, 72 miles south of Mogadishu. All had high fevers, severe stomach cramps and vomited blood.

In Kenya, doctors have confirmed three deaths from the disease, all of which

happened last week at a hospital in the remote town of Garissa. They were trying to verify reports that 171 more people had died in flooded villages in the northeast of the country.

The outbreaks in both countries happened along rivers, the Ewaso Nyiri in Kenya and the Shabelle in Somalia. Experts speculate that flood-

ing brought on by El Niño that contaminated drinking water and allowed pests that breed in floodwaters to flourish may have caused the disease.

The first batch of specimens gathered in Kenyan villages 200 miles and 350 miles northwest of Nairobi were expected back in the capital late yesterday for testing so-

day. It was unclear when samples from Somalia would arrive.

Twelve possible diseases are being investigated, including yellow fever, dengue, Rift Valley and relapsing fevers. Ebola, which also causes its victims to bleed from the mouth and other orifices, has tentatively been ruled out. (AP)

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Mexico mourns raid 'martyrs'

Three held over slaughter of
45 peasants in attack on rebel
village, writes David Adams

AT LEAST three suspects are being questioned over the slaughter of 45 defenceless Indian peasants in southern Mexico, as surviving villagers held a wake in the memory of their lost relatives. None of the suspects has yet been charged.

In the deserted chapel of Acatel, the tiny rural hamlet where the orgy of killing began on Monday, some villagers who escaped the massacre returned on Christmas Eve for a communal meal to honour the birth of Jesus and to remember their dead. Heaps of bloodied clothes, shoes and the bedding of those who died, covered the church floor, providing a grim contrast to the decorations and a Nativity scene. Bloodstains also marked the paths leading from the church down to a nearby river bank, where some of the victims tried to hide before the cries of their frightened children gave them away.

A special Christmas Eve Mass was held in the nearby village of Polho, where the bloodstained coffins were laid out in the local church. The dead have yet to be identified and the coffins bore simple labels, such as "Adult, female, 35," and "Adult, male, 23". Blood seeped from the smaller coffins of some of the child victims as they were carried down a steep dirt path lined with Tzotzil Indian women and children holding candles in a late-night vigil.

"I have never before assisted at a Christmas Mass with 45 people dead," Oscar Salinas, the priest, said. "These are people of strong spirit who live on the margins of violence. You could say it was a situation of martyrdom."

Mexicans are demanding that the Government should

explain why no effort was made to stop the killing. Roman Catholic Church officials say the Government was alerted to the shooting almost immediately it began. Witnesses said it went on uninterrupted for at least five hours.

The survivors say the attack stemmed from a regional dispute over a local alternative government established by pro-Zapatista villagers. The victims were members of a Tzotzil Indian organisation called Las Abejas, which sought self-government in the Chenalhó district of northern Chiapas. The left-wing Zapatistas' strong peasant support represents a direct challenge to the dominance in Chiapas of the PRI, which has governed Mexico for 70 years.

Human rights groups and church leaders are placing much of the blame on the Mexican Government, saying its failure to move firmly and quickly to disarm paramilitary groups and negotiate a solution to the four-year-old conflict had created the conditions that led to the massacre.

Human rights groups claim that the PRI administration in the southern state of Chiapas has secretly armed the paramilitary groups, supposedly in defence against the Zapatistas. The PRI has insisted that it does not condone violence or encouraged any paramilitary brutality.

"The direct responsibility for these bloody acts rests on [President] Ernesto Zedillo... and the Secretary of the Interior, who for years gave the green light to a counter-insurgency programme presented by the federal army," said Subcommander Marcos, military leader of the Zapatista peasant army that launched an uprising four years ago to demand civil rights for the



Women from Acatel weep for their lost friends and relatives during a wake in nearby Polho. Many of the dead have not yet been identified

'We discovered many of the bodies. We saw some on top of others, dead women clutching their dead children'

Chiapas Indians. Señor Zedillo has bitterly condemned the massacre and Emilio Chuayfett, the Interior Minister, denied the federal Government bore any responsibility, "even by omission".

Catholic leaders said they gave ample warning to the Government that paramilitary violence was brewing. "We have information that paramilitary groups are multiplying," the Church told the Government in a letter in October. "Former soldiers and police are training civilians to fight their brothers, ruling party congressmen are spon-

soring the sale and the trafficking of weapons, acting as protectors and co-ordinators of the various paramilitary groups," the letter said.

Church leaders say they continued to provide the Government with specific warnings in the days leading up to the attack on Acatel. When the shooting began, the bishop's office in San Cristóbal de las Casas said it

received a telephone call alerting them that the village was under attack. Although that information was immediately passed on to state officials, the Government failed to respond.

Survivors of the massacre, in which 21 women and 15 children were killed, have identified the gunmen as members of a paramilitary group with ties to the PRI. After the shooting began,

some villagers were able to escape the gunmen by fleeing down a mountainside.

Augusto Gómez Pérez burst into tears as he told reporters how he and other survivors ventured back to the area on Monday evening after the shooting subsided.

"We discovered many of the bodies. We saw some on top of others, dead women clutching their dead children," he said.

Unable to continue, he mumbled, "so much sadness".

His nephew, Juan Vázquez Luna, 15, lost his parents and his sister in the massacre. He said that he ran, while his father made the mistake of trying to crawl to safety.

□ Volcano erupts: Mexico's giant Popocatepetl volcano spewed black smoke four miles high and belched a pool of lava early yesterday in its strongest explosion since June, volcano experts and media reports said. The smoke and ash could be seen 33 miles away in the capital, Mexico City. (Reuters)

At least 32 die as Pakistan trains collide

By Christopher Thomas
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

A BLUNDER by a railway worker is believed to have been responsible for a train crash in Pakistan in which at least 32 people died and 100 were injured — the latest in a catastrophic record of train disasters that have claimed more than 2,000 lives in a decade.

The Rohi express was travelling at top speed through a rural station at Rustam Sargana, 15 miles from the eastern Punjab town of Jhang, when it smashed into the front of a stationary train shortly before midnight on Wednesday. Visibility was low because of fog.

The Associated Press of Pakistan reported that the train should have been on parallel tracks and that a guard or a railway employee in charge of points may have made a mistake.

Some of the world's worst railway disasters have been in Pakistan. In 1989 two passenger trains collided, killing 850 people. In March this year 135 people died when a train jumped the tracks and slammed into a sand dune after the brakes failed.

The Pakistan Air Force was called out to cut free passengers trapped in the carriages of both trains in the latest crash. Villagers carried away the dead and injured before emergency services arrived. Many died from their wounds during the journey to hospital over bumpy country roads. The death toll is expected to rise because of severe injuries sustained by many passengers. Four were described last night as critical.

The train was on its way to Rawalpindi and was not scheduled to stop at the station, where a local train travelling from Multan was about to pull away from the platform when the express smashed into it.

IT'S WORTH LIVING IN LONDON SELFRIDGES

Starts Sat Saturday 27 December. Up to 50% off fashion and homeware. Call Freephone 0800 124 400 for details. Sat 27: 9am-6pm. Sun 28: 12pm-6pm.

The Jackal plots to beat life of prison boredom

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

CARLOS the Jackal will today be questioned over a 1982 terrorist attack in the first of a long line of judicial rendezvous that will represent his only break from the monotony of prison.

After his life sentence in Paris on Tuesday for murder, the media-loving terrorist is likely to multiply legal procedures in the hope of winning public exposure and relief from boredom. His lawyers say he will appeal against his conviction for shooting dead two French secret service agents and their informer in 1975.

Illich Ramirez Sanchez, the wealthy Venezuelan Marxist who became known as Carlos, has little hope of overturning the verdict reached by the French jury.

But at least he will be able to demand extra visits from his battalion of lawyers, one of whom, a former model, was found sitting on his knee in a prison interview room last year.

Carlos will no doubt be pleased that his encounters with the man he appears to consider as his sparring partner, the French anti-terrorist judge Jean-Louis Bruguière, begin today.

Judge Bruguière wants to interrogate Carlos over the 1982 bombing of the Parisian offices of the newspaper, *al Watan al Arabi*, which left one person dead. Carlos has been charged in connection with the incident, one of five terrorist acts for which he has been placed under formal investigation.

The others are the 1974 grenade attack on a Paris chemist, which killed two people; the bombing in 1982 of

a train, killing five; the explosion in a Marseilles train station, which left two dead in 1983; and the explosion on the Paris to Marseilles high-speed train, which caused five deaths, also in 1983.

The terrorist's performance at this week's court case suggests he will press for all five procedures to end in public trials, even if that means repeated life sentences for him.

At his first public outing since his capture in Sudan in 1994, the self-styled "militant communist revolutionary" multiplied eccentricities in a successful attempt to seize centre stage.

On the final day he confused observers with a speech of almost four hours in often incomprehensible French that did little to shed light on the 1975 killings. "I have never denied the facts. I have neither confirmed nor denied them. I say, 'I don't co-operate'."

His actions, he said, should be placed in the context of a "world war between Zionism and the Earth's damned, the slaves. This is a fight to the death that humanity is going to win. If not there will be total alienation, the McDonaldisation of the human race."

Beyond the struggle, however, Carlos again let other preoccupations filter through his monologue, notably his own image. Defining himself as a man "not of iron, but of sentiment", he said: "A mercenary kills for money... but we have killed for an ideology, for a cause, the Palestinian cause."

To prove the point, he greeted the verdict with a raised fist, shouting: "Long live the revolution."



Cubans packing Havana's cathedral to celebrate Christmas for the first time in 28 years. Many have only a vague idea of what it is about

Cuba learns how to enjoy Christmas

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

THOUSANDS of Roman Catholic worshippers packed Havana's cathedral yesterday to give thanks for their first Christmas holiday in nearly three decades.

The celebrations came after a surprise decision last week by President Castro to restore the traditional holiday as what he called a one-time exception to honour next month's historic visit by the Pope. For the first time since 1969, Cubans did not have to get up on Christmas morning and prepare for work or school.

Many Cubans were celebrating Christmas for the first time and have only a vague idea of what it is all about. Although it was never completely outlawed, practising any religious faith in Cuba was discouraged by the Communist authorities after Se-

for Castro was swept to power in the 1959 revolution. Cuba officially declared itself an atheist nation in 1962, and the Christmas holiday was discarded in 1969 to boost the sugar harvest.

Until recently having a Christmas tree was looked upon as an insult to the revolution. But these days Cuban officials can no longer find any contradiction between Christmas and the revolution. Christmas began making a comeback after the Government began lifting restrictions on religious worship in 1992. For the first time this year Christmas trees and other holiday items went on sale in government shops.

Government pork was also being offered in state-run markets at subsidised prices. No feast is complete in Cuba without roast pork, and many families in Havana have taken to smuggling pigs into their flats and fattening them

for months in advance of important birthdays and holidays.

Traditional Christmas decorations remain in short supply and are too expensive for most people, who earn state salaries of no more than £10 a month. During years of economic hardship Cubans have become experts in cannibalising all sorts of odds and ends and fashioning them into makeshift objects of worth. Christmas is no different, as families convert potted plants into substitute Christmas trees, adorning them with home-made decorations.

□ Papal message: In a special Christmas message to the Cuban people last weekend, the Pope welcomed the return of the religious holiday. However, in an apparent sign of his readiness to challenge Cuba's Communist authorities, he made a veiled appeal for the Christmas holiday to be restored permanently.



Castro meets Santa Claus: How the issue was seen by cartoonist Kal in the Baltimore Sun newspaper

WORLD SUMMARY

Four more may have avian flu

Hong Kong: Four more people were feared to have avian flu, which has killed at least three people here and forced the government to ban chickens from China.

A government statement said the latest possible victims included a woman, 25, who was in a critical condition. Two young boys were also in hospital, and a year-old boy has been discharged after he recovered. Blood tests on 732 chickens have tested negative for the virus. (Reuters)

Director dies

Milan: Giorgio Strehler, 76, one of Italy's best-known theatre directors and Shakespeareans, died of a heart attack in Switzerland. In 1947 he founded Milan's Piccolo Theatre, where he worked for half a century. (Reuters)

Spacemen paid

Moscow: Mir cosmonauts were finally paid in full. Their money was withheld during an inquiry into a collision involving the space station. Commander Vasily Tsibilyev and engineer Aleksandr Lazutkin returned in August. (AP)

Churches stoned

Jakarta: A 300-strong mob using sticks and stones destroyed two houses used as Christian churches in a village 12 miles west of Indonesia's capital. The country is mainly Islamic. Many of the worshippers were ethnic Chinese. (AP)

Wrong target

Ankara: Eight people, including two civilians, were hurt when a missile struck a ship used to launch target balloons during a Black Sea training exercise for Turkish cadets. One of those injured was in a serious condition. (Reuters)

Striking escape

Brussels: Vincent Buret, 25, an armed robber, has broken out of jail for the fourth time, by climbing down from his high-security cell on the ninth floor of Belgium's largest prison. He escaped as guards were on a pay strike. (Reuters)

Mayor scraps Tiber tunnel

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A GRANDIOSE plan to build a fast motor underpass along the Tiber next to the Castel Sant'Angelo by 2000 has been scrapped by the Mayor of Rome, Francesco Rutelli, after archaeologists said the project could undermine the foundations of the fortress.

Signor Rutelli is responsible for celebrations to mark the advent of the Christian millennium. He said it was not feasible to complete the tunnel before December 1999, the deadline for completion of infrastructure projects for use by millions of pilgrims.

The underpass project had been criticised by cultural heritage representatives who want more tests to be carried out to determine the possible impact on Hadrian's Mausoleum. Environmental pressure groups also opposed the proposal on the ground that Castel Sant'Angelo might be undermined by excavations.

It is the second time the city fathers have had to retreat on pledges to create jobs through public works schemes. More than 6 billion lire (£2.2 million) was spent on preparing for the tunnel.

The Vatican backs the plan since it could ease traffic around St Peter's Square.

German 'suicide bomber' accused

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI police have charged a German convert to Islam with terrorism, after he allegedly became the first non-Arab to volunteer to become a suicide bomber.

Stephen Joseph Smirak, 26, a German citizen, was to have made the mission on behalf of the Iranian-backed militant Muslim movement, Hezbollah, based in Lebanon.

He appeared in a Tel Aviv court yesterday "charged with helping an enemy in war with Israel", passing on information to Hezbollah which could have harmed the security of the Jewish state, and membership of a terrorist organisation. The two-hour hearing was closed to reporters.

Afterwards Herr Smirak's lawyer denied that his client had pleaded guilty to the charges. He said that this would be determined only when proceedings resume on January 4. If convicted, Herr Smirak could face life imprisonment.

The charge sheet says Herr Smirak converted to Islam in 1994 and two years later made contact with Hezbollah. Police allege that Herr Smirak told them that, if released, he would resume working towards his suicide-bomb goal.

He allegedly underwent explosives training in a Hezbollah camp in Lebanon before arriving in Israel on November 28. He was sent to

videotape crowded places in Tel Aviv and Haifa and was due to travel on to Turkey, where he was to have met his Hezbollah operators.

In Turkey, he was to have received his final orders including instructions about how to prepare an explosive device and the intended location of a terrorist strike. But he never reached the second stage of his operation. He was arrested by Israeli intelligence agents, after his arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion airport.

In the three weeks since his arrest, he has been interrogated but details of his confessions were kept secret. A restraining order on publication of details about the case was only partially lifted on Wednesday.

Police said Herr Smirak had a history of criminal activity, including drugs and robbery, and had served time behind bars in Germany. He reportedly exchanged his passport in Europe to hide any trace of his stay in Lebanon before arriving in Israel.

Israeli intelligence has claimed Hezbollah has been attempting to enlist Europeans for terrorist strikes. In a statement issued in Lebanon last night, Hezbollah leaders denied they had recruited Herr Smirak to plan a suicide attack and claimed the story had been made up by Israeli intelligence agents.

New York murder rate still in decline

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK is on course to register its lowest murder rate in 30 years. With less than a week to go before the official annual tally is compiled, police have recorded only 746 homicides, a 22 per cent decrease from last year, when 961 people were killed.

However, heartening as the figures are, the city's declining murder rate still needs to be kept in perspective. More people have been killed here this year than in Britain, where 680 murders have been recorded. Credit for the fall in homicides is being given to Rudolph Giuliani, the city's Mayor, as well as to Howard Safir, the Police Commissioner.

Their "zero-tolerance" police policy has ensured that New York is much safer to live in than five years ago. In 1992, before Mr Giuliani took office, murders reached a record peak of 2,262. Over the succeeding years, the rate dropped annually.

Although there were fewer murders in 1997, it did record more than its fair share of high-profile homicides. They included a string of Central Park killings and the death of Malcolm X's widow, who was set alight by her grandson.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MEMORIES OF 1997 IN PICTURES

Diana, the birth of the magazine

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Russia backs down in spying row

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday backed away from an embarrassing and potentially damaging spy row with Washington, when an American accused of espionage was allowed to leave the country in an alleged gesture of seasonal goodwill.

Richard Bliss, 29, an electronics engineer from California, was expected to be home for dinner in San Diego last night, exactly a month after he was arrested by Russian counter-intelligence officers in the southern city of Rostov-

on-Don. The Federal Security Service (FSB), the successor to the KGB, said that he was being allowed home as a humanitarian act.

If prosecutors require his presence he has been ordered to return to Russia by January 10, when he could stand trial on espionage charges and face up to 20 years in prison.

However, the move was widely regarded by both Russian and American officials as a face-saving climbdown by Moscow, after over-zealous counter-intelligence officers wrongly detained Mr Bliss, who was found using satellite

receivers in a sensitive area of Rostov.

It transpired that Mr Bliss, who works for the Qualcomm Corporation of California, was simply a technician carrying out installation work for a new cellular communications system in the city. "Had he been a real spy, nobody would have sent him to America for Christmas," said Valeri Petryusev, the lawyer defending Mr Bliss, who doubted that the case would get to court.

Although such incidents do arise occasionally in Russia, particularly in provisional ar-

reas where local counter-intelligence officers often treat foreigners with Soviet-style suspicion, this particular case deteriorated into the worst of its kind since the end of the Cold War six years ago.

The arrest sparked an angry response from Washington and the case was taken up by Al Gore, the American Vice-President, and a number of congressmen, who threatened to take retaliatory action against Russia unless Mr Bliss was freed. His return home was regarded by the United States as the end of the affair.



Now is the time to revive your tired and jaded skin. Treatments include everything from a Fango Borghese green mud mask to a Decleor instant beauty booster. But the infallible answer could be an early night.

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£18.50, at major department stores.



FANGO BORGHESSE ACTIVE MUD
This huge pot of green mud was fantastic. It was thick and cool to apply, making the skin tingle. Washed off, it left my skin smooth and spot-free. 10/10
At selected department stores, £29.



SHU UEMURA PRINCIPE 21
Cool and soothing to apply, it revived my partied-out skin so much that after one heavy evening I was told by several people how well I looked. 9/10
Available at Fenwick, New Bond Street W1, £50.



SHISEIDO VITAL PERFECTION MASK
Very quick to use (took only three minutes). Skin was taut and shiny afterwards. Created a great surface for foundation. 7/10
At selected department stores, £26.50.



DECLÉOR INSTANT BEAUTY BOOSTER
Clinical packaging. Whitish gel goes on easily. Smells delicious. My skin may possibly be too far gone for help but for me it was infallible. 6/10
At selected department stores, £21.50.



CHANEL TEINT EXACT ROSE
Does cover blemishes, but with a matt-like finish. It felt heavy but was good for total coverage for dull skin. 5/10
Available at leading department stores, £24

Compiled by
DEBORAH BRETT

HOT TIP
Nails. £3.99, published by Kyle Cathie. Fly the flag, go girly with daisies or do the polka with dots. There are 28 nail designs in this small, compact and beautifully photographed book that will help you to paint your claws to match your mood.

Objects of desire

■ Metallic coil bracelets, £14 per pack of about 20. Available in gold, white silver and silver from Agatha, 4 South Molton Street W1. Mail Order: 0171-495 2779. Having winged their way over from Paris, these lightweight, almost spring-coil-like, metal bracelets are adorning every fashion editor's arm. Worn with simple suits, they will add to the minimalist look, as well as giving an ethnic touch to the Far Eastern fabrics around at the moment. Beware: put them on only three at a time or they "ping" apart and are very difficult to push back together again.

■ Blow-up chair, £55, from Oliver Bone, 10 Kensington Church Street W8 (0171-368 0035). Despite this chair coming with a foot pump, it takes a while to fully inflate. Once blown up, however, it is surprisingly comfortable and rather bouncy, and looks extremely cool.

Reflections on Morticia Addams

Oh, no! It is the Nightmare after Christmas. You wake to the frosty sunlight pouring through the window, and the sound of someone pounding on the door. After a moment, you realise that the pounding is actually inside your head. Your eyeballs have shrivelled in their sockets like a couple of sultanas in a nutshell. You feel like someone who was horribly put to death a couple of thousand years ago. Rising from your bed like a mummy emerging from its sarcophagus, you judder over to the mirror and take a look. It cracks from side to side. Well, no, all right, it doesn't. But still, the ruby-eyed reflection gazing back at you might be Morticia Addams's elder sister after a particularly heavy night on the beetle juice. It is a grim sight, and what makes it all the worse is that tonight is the party of the year, to which he is definitely coming. It has to be said that in your present condition, even Frankenstein's Monster might

If you look, and feel, like someone who was put to death a couple of thousand years ago, read on...

take one look and find an excuse to be elsewhere. So, what are you going to do about it? If you are aged between 18 and 24, you can stop worrying. Sausage, bacon, eggs, mushrooms, dripping toast and a glass of champagne just before you go out will probably see you blooming this evening as prettily as ever. The rest of you had better stay behind and pay attention. What you do now by way of a pick-me-up will depend largely on how much time you have at your disposal. Your poor old liver might have benefited from Zand's Milk Thistle dietary supplement, and your immune system from a dose of Kombucha Mushroom Elixir. If only you had started taking them, as urged by *Vogue*, when the party season started. For now, though, it is emergency mea-

sures only. You might start with a purifying mud face pack. La Prairie does a Cellular Purifying Clay mask which reeks punitively of something antiseptic and tingles when you put it on. You emerge shrimp pink, with every pore

CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

tightened to its limit. The Fango Borghese mask shown here is a gentler experience but still perfectly effective. If you are expecting visitors and don't want to have to greet them looking like the Creature from the Crypt, a serum is

usually a clear liquid, often packaged in quasi-medical fashion with a little glass dropper. You apply a tiny amount to a clean skin for a quick lift. Feeling a trifle jaded a couple of weeks ago, I found myself at the Lancôme counter, being lectured on the magical properties of the Oligo-Major anti-fatigue stimulating serum. "A lot of my ladies use it when they have been in hospital," said the enamelled Ancient Mariner behind the till. Good grief! I was obviously looking even worse than I had thought. Morale reduced to the size of a pea, I handed over my credit card and went home with a little bottle of stuff that smells like Varn, but seems to be working quite well. But what if there is not even time for that? It is half an hour before the crucial date, and

you are convinced that your only option is a vow of perpetual chastity and a lifetime spent doing good works with the Little Sisters of the Irredeemably Plain. Just before you book a fitting for the habit, you might try one of the balms produced by sympathetic cosmetics companies for hopeless cases such as yours.

Decleor's Instant de Beauté promises to "eliminate tiredness and restore a radiant glow to the face". It smells divine, but I fear that exhaustion is too indelibly scrawled over my visage for it to respond. Clarins Beauty Flash Balm smells less nice but seems to work better. In either case, the effort of slapping it on will at least get the circulation going. Of course, the one really infallible pick-me-up is a nice early night. Next morning you will look ravishing. The only thing is, no one will be awake to see you. They will all still be sleeping off the excesses of the night before.

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The cook, the wife and the party girl's secrets for surviving the season

Jason Cowley discovers ways to avoid the dreaded festive fatigue and ensure that the fun keeps running into new year

Mick Nosh is a bon viveur, restaurateur and a regular on the London party circuit. Together with his partner, Nick — the self-styled Nosh Brothers — he has written several books on food and entertaining.

"How does anyone keep going during the party season? Luck, stamina and good planning... The last holds the key for me: the Nosh Brothers' life is a punishing round of socialising — professional and personal. We run an outside catering business, write books, do some television and as much lunching and partying as we can. In the run-up to Christmas, if you want to see everyone — go to the parties — events have to be organised with military precision.

"This year I'm in Canberra for Christmas, staying with my parents, who love their food. My mother is German-born, so we have goose for Christmas Day; my father loves his wines. I plan to drink good, subtle wine and eat beef on the bone every day. My younger son, who is 19, went to Canberra a week before me and has already put on half a stone.

"To sustain myself during the slow run-up to the new year — and if I get bored in Canberra — I'll move on to Sydney for the beaches, restaurants and party scene. It's blisteringly hot there at the moment, as those rampaging bush fires show. And then it's on to Bali for new year, where I'll meet up with friends.

"I've never much enjoyed new year in London — everyone usually runs out of steam after Christmas and there's a fake frivolity about much of the scene. I prefer Amsterdam, where the streets are really vibrant, full of exploding fireworks and light, and where there is usually a hint of danger and chaos. On the Tropics, where there are bars as good as you find in Barcelona and, if you want, you can also enjoy the peace and tranquillity of deserted beaches."

He adds: "Of course, burnout is a constant worry. The other day, Nick had a lunch with a few old friends at the Oxo Tower restaurant on the South Bank, at which they each had to drink three bottles of wine. Then they headed for the Groucho for more of the same. The Groucho is our oasis: it's where we can hooliganise with our friends without being in the public gaze. But you must learn to pace yourself over Christmas, not do too much too soon.

"Which is easier said than done, for we are big guys with big appetites. Our white coats are a licence to cause mayhem, and this is the time of year

when the real mayhem takes place."

SALLY JANE ELLIS, 38, a housewife and qualified riding instructor, says: "Every year Christmas seems to be that much more hectic and panicky." She lives in Huntingfield, Suffolk, with her husband, Tim, and their two young children, Gemma, nine, and Tristan, three. Before moving to Suffolk she ran her own equestrian centre with 40 horses in Essex.

"You have to start earlier and earlier if you want to get everything done, especially if you are entertaining, as I have been. Those few days between Christmas Day and the new year can be terribly fraught for a busy housewife: I sometimes wonder how I keep going.

"I always do my Christmas shopping in short bursts, less exhausting than trying to do it all at once at the last minute, and try to think of a theme every year. It stops me panicking. For example, this year all the men in the family got mini-torches and I bought dishes for my three sisters and sister-in-law. As for food shopping,



Aliza Reger: spends Boxing Day in bed

the nearest supermarket is 70 miles away, so making last-minute dashes is something of an impossibility.

"I find that setting myself deadlines helps to keep on top of things. For example, I make the Christmas cake and pudding in November, and have a rule that cards have to be written and sent by December 1, although a few to business associates are always left until the last minute.

"On Christmas Day last year, I got up at 5am to muck out our five horses, which also needed to be taken out for exercise later in the day.

"I put the turkey in to cook at that time on Christmas morning, although I did contemplate putting it in the oven the night before so it could cook through the night. My parents, mother-in-law, younger sister, Kat, and her boyfriend and child spent Christmas Day with us. Kat is a dairy farmer so she is also extremely busy around the Christmas period.

"This year I'm celebrating it in Mauritius with my husband, Andrew, and our daughter, Annoushka, and many friends. Nothing has been planned, although some of our friends arrived early to suss out what is going on. The big hotel parties don't really appeal to me, 200 or 300 anonymous people meeting in a spirit of fake bonhomie. What I'm looking for is something looser, more creatively relaxed: let's call it spontaneous combustion.

"In January I start a new job, as chief executive of Janet Reger. But, despite the increased responsibility, this won't stop me partying: nothing could do that."



Celebrity cooks Mick and Nick Nosh see luck, stamina and good planning as the key. Says Mick, left: "You must pace yourself over Christmas — easier said than done"

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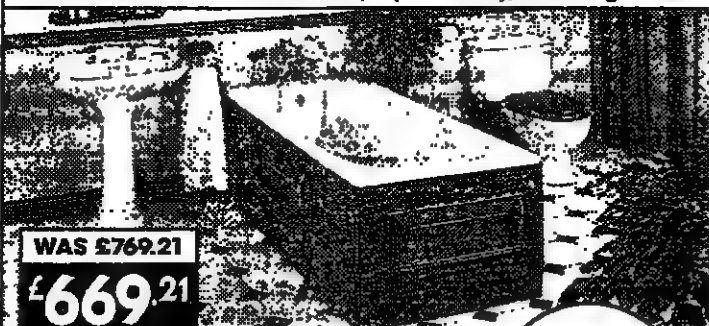
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Ever more hectic: Sally Jane Ellis, with Tristan, three

Everyman's court jesters for our age

John Lloyd speaks up for the class acts of the streets

In the long covered walkway which leads from Dundee's Discovery Point Leisure Centre to the town's main streets, a busker was giving the Christmas shoppers their favourites: A Scottish Soldier, Will Ye Go, Lassie? and So This Is Christmas.

The sentimental ones are the best, he explains, in a gap between Flower of Scotland and Mr Tambourine Man, the sentimental ones and the Scottish ones, and if the two are united (as they often are), best of all. A good two or three hours, after which the cold in the draughty hallway drives him into the pub for a break, might net him £20.

Each to their taste. The buskers who work the popular slot at the bottom of the down escalator to the Victoria Line at Victoria Station camp it up more. One wears a cello and plays trad jazz on a clarinet. A merry Nigerian bangs on the bongos with a backing track on a tape machine, keeping up a line of comic patter with the endless stream of humanity which clanks past. A new act appeared the other day: a striking young woman with wild hair, who sang torch songs unaccompanied, with energy and talent.

They are there on sufferance. The Dundee busker could be moved on under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act of 1982 if he were deemed to be causing an obstruction. The acts at the foot of the Victoria Line escalator are covered by London Transport bylaw 22, which prohibits "soliciting for a reward" or "playing a musical instrument to the annoyance of others". In practice, they can work unless someone complains.

Labour, when soliciting for votes, turned a cold eye on these and other street activities and rumoured about tougher laws but nothing has been done and probably nothing will. For the streets appear to be winning this small but important struggle and in so doing, the people of the streets are making a modest contribution to restructuring the welfare state.

The Scroogeish spirit of the Victorian-era laws which defined buskers' presence on public thoroughfares as mere "obstruction", is being challenged. A major Metro - in Tyne and Wear - has for the past two years licensed buskers to perform in its 40 stations, and has found the response encouraging. The private sector has done more. For a decade, the company which owns the piazza in Covent Garden, Guardian Properties, has licensed street performers - it dislikes the term buskers who are indeed in a different league - to perform in an outdoor pitch at the back of St Paul's Church, inside the covered arcade in the centre of the Garden. The performers are licensed in an audition before the piazza's management.

One star has shot out of Covent Garden into the big time. The comedian Eddie Izzard did a comedy sword-fighting act for years in the Garden. He organised his fellow street performers into an association with a constitution, to bargain with Guardian and to limit entry in what

can be an overcrowded profession.

Paddy Bramwell runs the association now; he does the Famos (sic) Bramwells comedy magic turn, which he defines as in the British tradition of street performing minimalism. There are only two tricks in his act; everything is in the comic build-up. The great Tommy Cooper is the epitome of this style.

The Garden is the best organised, but Mr Bramwells says Brighton, Bath, York and Glasgow are all friendly to performers. The space at the foot of Edinburgh's Mound, next to the National Gallery of Scotland is, during the Festival, a rich pickings for those who can withstand the uncensored (but unharmed) free-for-all. Abroad, Boston, San Francisco and Sydney all have their street performing spaces - as does the Pompidou Centre in Paris, though that, says Mr Bramwells, is a mafia which an outsider dares to enter at his peril.

Most importantly, Mr Bramwells says that he and many of his comrades do not want to leave the streets - on which veterans, like the famed "Butterfly Man" from San Francisco, who does comic-aggressive repartee, spend decades.

Mr Bramwells has a home, a family and an accountant. The man singing Flower of Scotland on the windy walkway, or the woman giving it Had To Be You all she has as the escalator, are likely to have an ambiguous relationship with the police and a non-existent one with the Inland Revenue.

But the cautious nibbling at the edges of the street performers' world by State and commerce should continue and be encouraged; for it is here, in this semi-bohemian, semi-dropout world, that an increasing number of citizens, especially the young, will find at least a temporary home. It cannot be banned in a free society; nor should it be. The musicians and jugglers and comedians who ask for our attention or our sympathy are engaging us in small civic acts, jerking us out of the driven solipsism which urban transport encourages.

They divert, amuse, touch. They provide some antidote to the relentless ambience of themed Muzak. I was glad to hear the neo-nationalist rubbish which is Flower of Scotland on the walkway, for at least it was attached to a human being and not enjoining me to be Merry through loudspeakers. We believe in competition: Covent Garden shows that auditioning for a space on the street encourages class acts. We believe in enterprise: think, as you digest in the warmth, how much enterprise it takes to set up the bongos and the tape recorder and shout cheerful greetings to an indifferent stream.

The men and women of street entertainment could become Everyman's court jesters for our age. We will need more such obstructions in the new year.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.



Parables of lost innocence

A church high in the Andes stands as a symbol to faith under threat

The ancient Bolivian fort town of Curahuara de Carangas has a fine old church, and my friend Peter had an artist friend, Roberto, who was restoring the frescoes and painted ceiling. We had heard he was accommodated in a roadworkers' camp, but there were no telephones and we were many miles away. All we could do was search for him.

So it was last summer that we took the evening coach from La Paz to the truck-stop of Patatamaya, from where we would have to beg a ride through the night in a lorry. Hunched over a meal of coca tea, stale bread and chicken-claw soup, we found an elderly driver who, for two dollars, would drop us where the road passes closest to Curahuara. The rest we would walk.

In a 70-mile drive we passed no other traffic. From time to time our driver would reach into the dashboard and pull out a white plastic bottle, from which he would take a swig. This was 97 per cent proof Bolivian drinking-alcohol.

The road being straight, I felt unconcerned - until he started disengaging his engine on the downhill slopes. These were long and steep. We would freewheel, gathering speed. As the enormous load we were carrying swayed behind us, the cab would shake. When the headlights picked out an upturn in the road, I would sigh inwardly with relief.

"Son Ingleses!" he inquired, guessing our nationality. "Diana, la limpiaron, no?" He thought she had been "cleaned up" by the Royal Family.

Around midnight the lorry driver pulled over to the hard shoulder. "Curahuara," he said, indicating a junction. He now planned to sleep a little. We climbed down, Peter grabbing his rucksack and I my rolled-up sleeping bag. We walked into the night, toward the soft Tilley-light of a corrugated iron hut some way off the road.

A few roadworkers there knew nothing of Roberto. Curahuara was ten minutes down the road, they said. There was no moon. The frieze of peaks around the horizon was black. But arched above us were many millions of stars, and the whole plain was bathed in pale, ethereal light. The road stretched into nothingness: no sign of Curahuara at all.

And it was unbelievably cold. At 1,300ft the temperature was far below

zero. The inside of my nose froze, our faces ached, and I began to lose feeling in one hand. So I plunged the arm into the core of my rolled bag, wearing it like a monstrous glove.

We marched in profound silence. Passing over a bridge we missed the noise of water, but the river had turned to ice, stopped in its tracks. Nobody passed. Our progress seemed somehow unreal, as though we were trapped within a time-loop, for though the silvery earth passed beneath our stride, the black shapes of the hills to either hand - more distant than they seemed - never changed or moved.

Then, all at once, dark, angular shapes arose to each side. We stared. These were the outlines of huts and houses. We were right in the middle of town! In the silence, Curahuara had ambushed us, ghostly and unlit. They stop the generator at nine.

One light glimmered from a window, and we made for it. Three South American Indians were slumped at a table with their beers and paraffin lamp. The barmaid knew nothing of Roberto but took pity on us. We could have a room for 50 cents. "You can share the bed," she said, lighting a candle-end and dumping a pile of blankets by the door. Head to toe, toe to head, we just fitted.

Before first light I awoke and ventured out to pee in the yard. The planets almost seemed to flare. The stars burned a dazzling gold and white. The cold cut the lungs and windpipe, 4am on the altiplano is a sharp, breathless, enchanted, lonely time. "You never enjoy the world aright," wrote Thomas Traherne, "till the sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars, and perceive yourself to be the sole heir of the whole world."

Sunrise brought blinding light flooding through the iron frame of our broken window and the sound of a corner playing reveille, as conscripts began marching in the fort. Curahuara's one bus started revving

its engine in the square, three hours before it was due to leave.

We found the mayor, Roberto had been away from Curahuara for some weeks, he thought - but would we like to see the paintings? He hoped these ancient glories of the altiplano would soon bring tourists to his struggling town. The mayor mounted an old bike and pedalled off to find the church caretaker. She returned with a bundle of enormous keys.

The church is huge and strangely dumpy: imagine something the size of a substantial urban parish church, with mud walls 4ft thick, and roofed in straw. It was completed in the 17th century. Within, almost every square yard of wall and ceiling is covered in wall-painting of the most vivid sort. The frescoes, completed in 1771, were mostly executed by South

American Indian and Mestizo converts, after the manner of the period.

The effect was stunning. You can recognise both the style and the themes of 18th-century Catholic art; but here was an enthusiasm, and a naivety, that contrasted with the languor, the lushness - almost decadence - of European religious painting. It was Grandiosa Moses meets Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Leaping at the viewer with freshness and wonder was a depiction of their pastor's miraculous vision of angels, and Mary (This is a true painting of Our Lady of the Snows, Special Defender of Raio's).

There were pictures of the Flood, and the Miracles, Gethsemane, the Massacre of the Innocents, and Heaven and Hell. All had a childlike quality - as though the scales had just fallen from the artist's eyes, and he had witnessed the beginning, and end, and meaning of the whole Universe.

A curiosity of the Indian religious art of this period in South America is the artists' apparent inability to get the eyes of animals right. Beasts of the field and birds are given human eyes, eyelashes - even, sometimes, eyebrows. This may be because llama

and alpaca do have eyes like people, with prominent eyelashes and (in the case of alpaca) something approaching eyebrows, too. So, in these scenes, sheep, cows, horses and donkeys glance out at the viewer with horribly arresting, intelligent gaze. In pride of place on the church walls was a large, naive version of the Last Supper. On Jesus's plate lay a roast guinea-pig.

Everything was executed with such freshness, such amazement. When the young Indian converts had painted these walls, Jesus and Mary had only recently arrived in the Andes. The paintings were wide-eyed with wonder and faith. The work had the quality of astonishment. Like the eucalyptus tree now marching across the South American highlands and militant in its spread, this Church and its miracles had been, all those centuries ago, what botanists call an introduced species. Like the eucalyptus, it was at first prey to none of the local parasites, the viruses and sapping diseases which rot and check the spread of native organisms. New beliefs, like new plant species - like new antibiotics - are given a head start on their enemies. It takes pursuers time to catch up.

But now the church in Curahuara was disused and locked. Guarding the town on a rock hill behind was another church, stone-hewn, magnificent with its belltower, but abandoned, overgrown by grasses and on the edge of ruin. There is no longer a resident priest. Catholicism in the Andes, now so long established as to be almost indigenous, has generated at last its own predators. Alcoholism, Protestantism (as rampant now in the Andes as the eucalyptus), capitalism, cynicism, weariness and disbelief throttle the state religion like bindweed.

In the dry hills all around Curahuara stood countless *chullpas*, tomb-houses: mud towers, doorless, windowless and blind, in which the Indians once interred their dead. All have long been ransacked by grave-robbers. The religion of the Incas choked itself too. Greed and civil war delivered their empire, paralysed, into Pizarro's lap. Now the Conquistadors' religion was choking in turn. We hitched a ride back to the main road. In a cruel sun the frozen stream was running again through a dry, baking plain. "Ingleses!" said our driver. "La Princesa Diana. Ah, pobrecita! La limpiaron, no?"

Philip Howard



Spizzerintum and other words to get out of a scrape

Repentance cometh (to some) on the morning of Boxing Day. And a resolution to take things easy until the buzzing in the ears fades. But if you are feeling bad, think of Gunter Burpus of Bremen. "In retrospect, I admit that it was unwise to try to gain access to my house by the catflap," said Burpus, a 41-year-old gardener. "I suppose the reason they are called catflaps rather than human flaps is because they are too small for people. I should have realised that."

Burpus lost the keys to his house and tried to squeeze through the catflap. He pushed his head and shoulders through, but then got stuck and remained so for two days. "At first, it seemed rather amusing, I sang songs and told myself jokes. But then I wanted to go to the lavatory. I began shouting for help."

After a few hours a group of students came by. They removed his trousers and pants, painted his buttocks blue, and stuck a daffodil between his cheeks. Then they placed a sign beside the Burpus rear end saying "Germany resurgent, an essay in street art. Please give generously," and left.

People were passing, but when Herr Burpus cried for help, they just said "Very good! Very clever!" and threw coins in his trousers. After two days framed as conceptual art, he was rescued only because an old woman complained to the police when a dog started licking his private parts. The rescue services cut him free, and the police then arrested him. On his morning after long days stuck tight, Herr Burpus turned over a new leaf: "Luckily the police have now dropped the charges. And I collected more than DM3,000 (£1,000) in my underpants. So the time was not entirely wasted."

What Herr Burpus has is Spizzerintum. "Spizzerintum" you ask. Spizzerintum is what American slang for the will to succeed, come catflaps and hot minestrone, as exemplified by Tony Blair, Richard Branson and Greg Ruisdski. It means never giving up, never saying sorry and keeping smiling through the catflap, even on Boxing Day. You can find such topical words on a difficult words Website on the Internet. For example, when the stock market made a dramatic rebound after an equally dramatic decline, the tricky word Website offered: "With remugient defiance, the bull market reappeared Tuesday - at least for a day." Three possible definitions are offered for "remugient": re-bellowing, excessively slimy, or echoing loudly. A click of your mouse on "re-bellowing" brings the surfer to a page saying, "That's right! Nice job!" The wrong selection brings up "Sorry" or "Nope."

In fact "remugient" is not difficult for Latin lovers. *Mugire* means to moo. So *remugire* means to moo back. See Virgil, *passim*: "The voice doubted by the echo of the woods: moos again." Latin is not just beautiful. It is also useful because it is the root of two thirds of English vocabulary and it forces its user to think of the real meanings without woolly abstractions. So the latest edition of the Vatican's lexicon of new words for activities that would have been well-known in Ancient Rome. A stripper is *sui ipsius nudator* - somebody who takes the clothes off her/himself. A top model is *photogenica puella exemplaris*, a photogenic girl model. Cicero might have been nonplussed by mobile phones and jet aircraft, but Latin has ways of naming their functions. And an Ancient Roman would have understood and recognised rock 'n' roll (*nutare et volvere*, the coarse and violent skinnings of satyr drama). McDonald's and a hot dog. No, not *cantis callidus*, foolish boy, but *pastillum botello fartum*.

For our languages and lifestyles in Europe descend from our ancestors, not changing as much as we suppose in our age. If only politicians and greedy manufacturers of animal feed had read Aeschylus, we might have avoided the tragedies and wicked waste of BSE. In his lost play, *Glaucoas the Pontian*, (part of the trilogy that won the prize in 427BC), Glaucoas, the hero, fed his horses on human flesh in order to make them ferocious for combat. But the gods were angry. So they made the horses run berserk. And they ate Glaucoas. In our classics and our catflaps we can find comfort even for Boxing Day.

Rover's return

CHRISTMAS has come at last for the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert: they have been given a Land Rover which was promised to them by the Prince of Wales nearly two years ago. After discussing the matter with his mentor, Sir Laurens van der Post, the Prince pledged early last year that he would give one of the vehicles - robust beasts with sand-adjusted tyres and air-conditioning - to the First People of the Kalahari, an outfit in Botswana. The promise was made in person to John Hardbottle, a Bushman and cattle rancher, who met the Prince in Scotland.

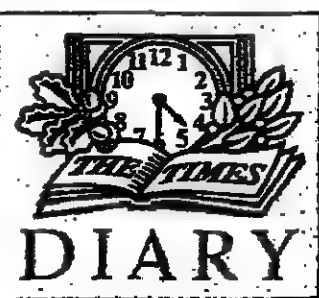
Problem. Both Hardbottle and Sir Laurens died later that year leaving no one to jog the Prince's memory. The weeks passed, the months passed, and still the Bushmen had no Land Rover. The case was taken up by Bushman Roy Sesana, who contacted Buckingham Palace pleading for his motor.

"Sir Laurens dying at the same time as Hardbottle did make things difficult, so there was a delay," admits Buck House. "We wanted to get the Bushmen to come to England to collect it but it was too tricky to organise." The vehicle has now just been shipped to Botswana but problems continue. "We had to have it registered in Gaborone then driven to the Bushmen in Ghanzi," says a khaki suit at Survival International, which helped to organise matters. "It took for ever."



A Bushgirl and the Prince

POLICE have sent Christmas cards to known criminals. Before punishment enthusiasts grow too steamed up, I should point out that cards bear the greeting: "Thinking of you". A blue hat from Ashford police, Kent, reports: "We have an array of tactics to target criminals and this is just another way of letting them know we are watching them." If it persuades the criminal classes to steer clear of nearby Diary Towers, I will be delighted; yet I am uncertain



whether the measure is either tough on crime or tough on the causes of crime.

Tokyo Tess

THOMAS HARDY, the late Wessex scribbler, is being exported to Japan. An ersatz Hardy village - a manor house, half-timbered shops, white horses carved in the hillside, everything really but a gloomy mayor such as Michael Henchard - is to be built on a 24-acre site on the slopes of Mount Rokko, a smartish ski resort. It will be carried out by the Border Oak Company, a modest outfit in Hertfordshire. "The Japanese are fascinated by British heritage," says the company. So it would seem - they already have an "Elizabethan" village and a pristine replica of Stratford-upon-Avon. One visiting

Jap. I hear, tried to buy and take home Leeds Castle.

Writing wrong

CAVORTING in period costumes has done little, it would seem, to awaken the literary sensibilities of the British actress Gwyneth Paltrow. Last week found her at a party in Tinseltown, where she decided to introduce her father to Mitch Glazer, the man who scripted *Great Expectations*. "Dad," she purred, "here's the man who wrote *Great Expectations*." Glazer, with impressive modesty, gently

explained that he merely wrote the screenplay.

Speak up

LIMBERING up for his maiden speech in the House of Lords is the Earl of Devon - who first took his seat on March 3, 1938. Seeing as he is now 81 and still to speak, it is thought that he has broken all records. This is a shame. The earl has much to impart. He was mentioned in dispatches in the Second World War and owns one of the nation's oldest living creatures - Timothy the tortoise.

Now 159, Timothy, happily hibernating at Powderham Castle, the earl's seat, is also a military hero: she (yes, she) was the lucky mascot of a British man o' war in the Mediterranean. Branded into her shell is the family motto: "Where have I fallen, what have I done?" But when will the earl come out of his shell?

Early Orson

A LOST and unknown film by the late - and great - director Orson Welles has been discovered. More than 60 years after it was shot, the short is to come before the public gaze. He made *Hearts of Age* when just 19, his first cinematic effort.



Welles: back from the grave

The film has been unearthed in Dublin and is to be screened at the National Film Theatre. The director, who was said to have been rather embarrassed by his teenage efforts, declared that it had been lost. This is not the stuff of family viewing. It features Welles and his girlfriend, Virginia Nicholson, who became his first wife, running amok in a graveyard. Welles assumes the role of a shadow, whose dialogue is limited to "The shadow always knows". That, and some rather strange moaning.

JASPER GERARD





HISTORY IS NOW

Fifty years on: the lessons of 1948

"We cannot restore old policies. Or follow an antique drum," wrote the Nobel laureate of 1948, but T. S. Eliot of all poets recognised the debt we owe to the past and the patterns time can weave. "Only through time time is conquered," he wrote in *Burnt Norton*, the first of his *Four Quartets*: a sense of tradition's pull, the long shadow cast by our ancestors, inspired his poetry and animated his prose. Eliot is a poet for all seasons but he is pre-eminently the lyricist of the wintry landscape and the interpreter of Christmas's message to the modern age. This Christmas season *The Times* remembers the old policies and listens to the antique drum of 1948, a year with a claim to be the hinge of this century.

The year in which the century's most influential poet was honoured also saw the wheel of transformation carry to prominence men, places and movements which, 50 years later, have now travelled full circle. In the days ahead we shall reflect on cities, events, inventions and individuals for whom the last fifty years have proved a particular lifespan. In their beginning was their end.

Reflecting on the beginning of that year, the horizon towards which many then peered was further behind them. It was 1848, the Year of Revolutions, which caught imaginations. It was the year when the hopes of change briefly flared on the Continent before old dynasties extinguished them. The struggles of 1848 inspired England's 1948 romantics. At *The Times* the mood was less sanguine. On January 3, 1948 we reprinted the new year comment of 100 years before: "Irish famine, failure of the potato crop, a severe financial crisis, and reckless speculation are items in the catalogue of melancholy." There was irony in the choice. The United Kingdom in 1948 was a country where food was ever more tightly rationed. Chancellors battled to keep the pound steady and exchange controls had recently been introduced.

But there was hope too. The Attlee Government was in the middle of a transformation of society, building a new

Britain on the back of a landslide. The most sweeping of that Government's changes came in 1948. The National Health Service was established, the railways nationalised, the decisive break with our former allies in Moscow made and the Palestine mandate brought to an end: this was the year of the establishment of the state of Israel, a nation born in conflict, sustained by arms.

Fifty years on the wheel has turned full circle. A Labour Government relies on private finance as it ambitiously modernises Nye Bevan's health service and contemplates the overhaul of the whole welfare state. The new Labour Government is pledged not only to abjure state ownership but is preparing for future privatisation of the State's assets. Berlin, the cockpit of the Cold War, is to become the capital of a new Germany in a new Europe with very different barriers. Israel, although the process of peacemaking is fraught, is safer now than at any time: serious diplomatic observers speculate that there will never be another war in that part of the Middle East.

Some of Britain's contours would be familiar to a traveller from 1948. The Government still restricts the sale of food, although for very different reasons. The *Times* still warns the Government, as a candid friend, against too crude an intervention in the labour market or too insensitive an intrusion into the green belt. In the editorials of 1948 it was the direction of labour and the construction of new towns, now it is the minimum wage and the development of new housing estates. The recurrence of the itch to intervene and the happy role of this newspaper in standing for liberty and tolerance of traditional life are reminders of the lessons history can teach us. Any year might yield similar lessons. But 1948, with its spate of births whose lives can now be safely judged, yields more than most. It was a watershed whose rivers have run their course and as we reflect, like Eliot, on "what might have been and what has been" we can better prepare for the millennium which fast approaches.

WON LAST CHANCE

The IMF has acted decisively — South Korea must do the same

It has not been a comfortable Christmas in East Asia. The economic calamity that has engulfed the region in recent weeks does not rest for the Christian festive season. The International Monetary Fund announced on Wednesday that it would intensify and accelerate its assistance to South Korea — a country that started 1997 as a financial powerhouse but seemed destined to end it in a state of slump. Some \$10 billion will now be rushed to Seoul to cover the immediate difficulties of debt repayment. As a result, South Korea's currency, the won, has at last shown some stirring of recovery. Sentiments in the local stock market, however, remain exceptionally sombre.

The IMF has moved with admirable vigour. International financial institutions are often criticised, correctly, for bureaucratic inertia. In this case, despite little time in which to make even a provisional evaluation, caution has, rightly, been abandoned. The crisis in Asia has the potential to create a worldwide recession on a scale scarcely seen in the postwar era. The IMF's bold decision should enhance economic stability in the short term and thus avert severe financial meltdown in 1998.

The IMF would have acted sooner were it not for the complexities of South Korean politics. The outgoing, and utterly discredited, Government, chose to ignore the warning signs of the coming collapse. There is also considerable suspicion that it actively suppressed such information in the hope of shoring up electoral support. That would certainly fit a far broader pattern of corruption. The election of Kim Dae Jung puts paid to those ambitions. Only in the

past week since the presidency was settled have South Koreans discovered how deep and disastrous their plight really is. Honesty was the essential precondition for the IMF to advance its assistance.

The Government has now promised dramatic reforms of its own in return for the bailout. These measures will centre on the complete restructuring of the country's financial system and the widespread introduction of market forces into areas from which they had been excluded. There is now an indication that direct action will be taken to deal with a bankrupt banking network. South Korea will have to go further and faster still if it is truly to tackle its economic crisis. That these initiatives should be accepted by a President-elect associated with the Left is Nonetheless, it may be that in these circumstances only a man from the Left can salvage South Korean capitalism.

It is absolutely crucial that the measures promised are quickly implemented. Strictly speaking it will be another two months before Kim Dae Jung takes office. He has been behaving this week as if he has already assumed power. His country would have collapsed if he had not. The outgoing administration must continue to allow him such leeway. If radical reform is not coherently pursued then it will be extremely difficult for ministers in countries such as Britain to defend, let alone extend, their aid to Seoul. The IMF will be intimately involved in South Korean affairs for months, if not years, to come. It must have complete confidence in this set of politicians. Outside funding cannot continue indefinitely. South Korea will not have another chance.

A MORE MODERN MONARCH

Her Majesty moves sensitively with the times

In her Christmas broadcast the Queen wrought a tapestry of "joy and woe... woven fine". A year in the nation's life which saw an upsurge of hope and a pitch into despair was reflected in the experience of the nation's first family, whose private tragedy became the country's. Yet although the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was the year's defining moment and one which precipitated a difficult period for her, the Queen has also had causes for consolation, indeed celebration, to reflect in her address. Balancing the recognition of loss with the cause for cheer is the task any reviewer of this year of extremes must face and Her Majesty did so in appropriate fashion, by dwelling first and most poignantly on grief before giving thanks for blessings and giving voice to hope.

The nature of yesterday's broadcast, the first produced by Independent Television News after the termination of the BBC's traditional monopoly, marked another stage in the sensitive modernisation of the monarchy. The producers created an altogether more accessible package by skilfully blending moving documentary footage of the Princess of Wales's funeral with more cheering actuality from the Commonwealth conference and Her Majesty's golden wedding, all interwoven with

the traditional address to camera. The tone of the broadcast bespoke a restoration in monarchical confidence after a sad year.

The recovery in public esteem which the monarchy enjoys after the anguished September days was most strikingly underlined by the results of our MORI poll on Christmas Eve which saw the Prince of Wales restored to widespread popularity and republicanism once more the cause of a receding minority.

The strength of public support and affection for the Royal Family was, in any case, powerfully visible last month in the reaction to the Queen and Prince Philip's golden wedding celebrations. The graceful manner in which the occasion was marked, the sense of domestic solidity and, in particular, the self-deprecating humour of both Queen and Duke in public speeches entrenched public loyalties. In her comments on another Union, that between the nations of this kingdom, Her Majesty affirmed, as is her right, the hope that devolution would prove that diversity and unity are complementary and not conflicting. The monarchy, and the Union, are both more adaptable than their critics have and yesterday's broadcast will have underlined how resilient both institutions remain to the changing currents of time and chance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for council on health priorities

From Professor K. G. M. M. Alberti and Professor M. H. Lessof

Sir, The White Paper on *The New NHS* (report, December 10; letters, December 17) is very welcome but has understated the difficulties which the health service now faces.

There is no longer any country in the world, however rich, which can afford to provide all its citizens with access to the increasing range of services, medical procedures and drugs which are becoming available. For that reason priorities must be chosen, but the White Paper gives no guidance on the way in which these choices are to be made.

What is needed is a more focused discussion on the ethical principles and the criteria which will, for example, help the new primary care consortia to determine their priorities in an equitable fashion. There also needs to be an increase in public discussion, understanding and acceptance of the fact that the NHS cannot meet all expectations.

The Royal College of Physicians has proposed that the Government should support the establishment of an independent council for health care priorities to advise on these issues. With the new developments that are proposed in the White Paper, it would be a pity if this opportunity were to be missed.

Yours faithfully,
K. G. M. M. ALBERTI
(President,
MAURICE LESSOF
(Chairman, Working Party on
Health Care Priorities),
Royal College of Physicians,
Regent's Park, NW1 4LE,
December 22

Westminster ruling

From Mr C. J. Macdonald-Brown

Sir, The Westminster "homes for voters" scandal was one which by its very nature involved dishonesty, cynical manipulation and sleaze on a level not seen for a long time.

I suppose it must have been obvious to all involved that Dame Shirley Porter might, because of the way her financial affairs are organised, be able to avoid paying any surcharge. Your report (December 20) that she might escape having to pay more than a fraction was therefore no surprise.

I do not know what powers the district auditor had, but it is worth noting that for over 20 years the English courts, in civil proceedings, have been granting "asset-freezing" orders to stop this sort of situation arising.

We appear to be left in this case, after a seven-year inquiry costing some £3 million, with a court ruling which may be worth little more than the paper it is written on. I hope I am wrong.

Yours faithfully,
CHARTERS MACDONALD-BROWN,
Gouldens (solicitors),
22 Tudor Street, EC4Y 0UJ.

From Mr G. M. Beresford Hartwell

Sir, Political memories are surprisingly short, and since for the goose ought to be the cause for the gander. In Westminster, council homes were sold in the hope of creating or preserving a majority.

Isn't that precisely why many council houses were built in the first place?

Yours faithfully,
G. M. BERESFORD HARTWELL,
40 Bramblewood Road,
Wallingford, Surrey SM6 0TF.
geoffrey@hartwell.demon.co.uk
December 20.

Hidden pockets

From Mr Chris Maund

Sir, I understand the praise for the girls of Tiffin Girls' School for their initiative in marketing knickers with pockets (report, December 11; letter, December 18), but I am concerned about the use to which these garments may be put by some clubgoers.

The police and door security have recently been working together to keep illegal substances out of clubs — a difficult enough task as it is, and one these garments will make impossible, providing the perfect hiding place.

It is illegal for door security to check the undergarments of anyone entering a club. Anyone wearing these garments knows full well they can put whatever they like into these pockets, and that they cannot be searched. This makes a mockery of the work of the police and door security.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS MAUND,
45 Hainault Street, London SE9 2EF.
chris.mound@ecm.com

Cat and mouse

From Dr J. Caroe

Sir, What a delightful present Mrs Cat gave us (letter, "Stocking fillers") on Christmas Eve. She quotes the mouse poem, "Twas the night before Christmas..." thus neatly providing the answers to five clues in today's Times Two crossword. Thank you!

Yours etc,
JOHN CAROE,
20 Pridesau Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2NB.
caroe@btinternet.com
December 24.

Sexist taunting in the Commons

From the Director of the Fawcett Society

Sir, The criticism by some Tory women MPs that those of their Labour counterparts who complain about sexism in the Commons are "naïve, spoilt and oversensitive" (report, December 13) is misguided. It is not that these women cannot cope with sexist taunting, rather that they should not have to.

The public-schoolboy culture of UK politics, with its pointless rituals and childish insults, is disliked by women from all parties. For too long women MPs complained privately, but felt that they had to "put up and shut up" in order to prove that they were as tough as the men. Under the playground rules which still govern the behaviour of many MPs the correct response to a bully is to stay quiet, or hit back (letter, December 19).

The dramatic increase in the number of Labour women MPs seems to have given them a confidence to chal-

lenge these assumptions. Rather than feeling they have to show how well they can fit in with the "yah boo" culture, they are questioning whether our democracy might be a bit more healthy if our MPs were required to conform to normal standards of workplace behaviour.

It is unfortunate that some Conservative women still believe that they have to demonstrate how tough they are by claiming that they can cope with the taunts and insults. Challenging the acceptability of this behaviour is a far tougher task.

However, Conservative women will eventually have to face up to the sexism in their own party if they are going to increase their numbers.

Yours sincerely,
SHELAGH DIPLOCK,
Director,
The Fawcett Society,
Fifth Floor,
45 Beech Street, EC2Y 8AD,
December 19.

Assessing impact of climate change

From Sir John Houghton,
Chairman of the Royal Commission
on Environmental Pollution

Sir, Dr Wilfred Beckerman ("Warning to global change", article, December 11; see also letters, December 15) mentions certain benefits of climate change while ignoring its main impacts.

These are likely to include a rise in sea level (causing substantial problems in many coastal regions and displacing tens of millions of people) and changes in the hydrological cycle (leading to more frequent and more intense droughts and floods).

Dr Beckerman also ignores economic studies which indicate that the likely cost to the world of damage from climate change and adaptation to it is substantially greater than the cost of sensibly organised programmes of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. His selective arguments fail to

do justice to the complexity of the climate change issue.

The Kyoto agreement is much more than the "mouse" Beckerman suggests to have an agreement at all over an issue with such major global implications is a real achievement. It is a beginning, not an end.

In seeing the challenge of climate change more as an opportunity than a threat, and in forging an appropriate partnership with industry, the UK Government is demonstrating an effective way forward, based on honest, balanced and thorough appraisals of the science, technology, economics and equity considerations involved.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOUGHTON,
Chairman, Royal Commission on
Environmental Pollution,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BZ,
December 22.

Millennium matters

From Mr Richard Weston

Sir, Simon Jenkins mounts a predictably spirited defence of the New Millennium Experience ("There's nothing to hide", December 20), but does little to allay my doubts about the enterprise.

The 1851 and 1951 exhibitions were certainly designed at short notice, but their aims were clear: the former to celebrate Britain's commercial might (and outdo the French), the latter to raise spirits and introduce a modern lifestyle after years of war, rationing and "Utility" goods.

The Crystal Palace was a compelling demonstration of industrialised building and helped usher in a new vision of space; the vast marquee at Greenwich is a technological tour de force, but will barely merit a footnote in architectural history.

"Hundreds of Britain's young designers" entrusted with an exhibition budget of hundreds of millions certainly ought to produce something sensational, but the fear remains that it will be no more than that. Great exhibitions, like great works of art, are driven by clear ideas, not sensational

packaging of themes which, from what we have been told so far, a focus group of ten-year-olds could have put together in an afternoon.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WESTON,
57 Lamborne Road,
Leicester LE2 6HQ,
December 20.

From Professor D. Robertson Smith
Sir, According to an astronomer (report, December 22) we are now in the year 2009. Can we now forget the Millennium Dome?

Yours faithfully,
D. ROBERTSON SMITH,
1 Bishop's Wood,
Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire OX44 9HA.

From Mr C. A. Beaton

Sir, Has Professor Giovanni Baratta found an answer to the millennium time-bomb?

Yours faithfully,
CALLUM BEATON,
La Fosse de Bas,
St Martin's, Guernsey GY4 6EQ.
callumbeaton@psimworld.net
December 22.

Keeping in touch

From the Very Reverend
Dr John Southgate

Sir, More useful than a mobile telephone, for those lost on moor or mountain (letters, December 12 and 15), and about the same size, would be a Magellan GPS (global positioning system) navigating device, such as the one I use, costing under £200.

Those who wander in isolated places would readily know where they were and which way to travel, and they would not need to be rescued. They would have no line rental or call charges to pay — all they need is a few AA batteries.

In such circumstances lost souls can look to the heavens for guidance and direction to back up their prayers for survival.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SOUTHGATE,
39 Churchfields, Hetherset,
Norwich, Norfolk NR9 3PH.

Advertising ban

From Ms Jayati Srivastava

Sir, The decision of the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre to ban two television advertisements by Christian Aid as "political" is deplorable (report, December 18).

The purpose of the campaign, of which these advertisements are part, is simply to highlight the mayhem caused by Third World debt which causes extreme suffering to millions of people, particularly children, in the poorer countries. To ban them is a denial of the right to be heard by the thousands of innocent and vulnerable victims who are suffering in silence.

It appears to me that it is the BBC decision which is political, not the advertisements.

Yours sincerely,
JAYATI SRIVASTAVA,
21 Nansen Village,
21 Woodside Avenue,
London N12 8AQ,
December 17.

On a rising note

From Mr Royer Slater

Sir, I notice an increasing tendency for people to raise the pitch of their voices at the end of statements of fact, as though asking a question. Rarely encountered a couple of years ago, incidences have increased and the majority of my business telephone callers even introduce themselves and their companies with this inflection, as though appealing to me for corroboration.

Does this indicate an increasing lack of confidence to affirm?

I am, certainly, yours faithfully,
ROYER SLATER,
79 Hermitage Woods Crescent,
Woking, Surrey GU21 1UF,
December 23.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5044. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Is this the final Boxing Day hunt?

From the Archbishop of Wales and others

Sir, Friday is St Stephen's Day, when by tradition the Church recalls the death of the first Christian martyr. It is also the busiest day of the year for hunting with hounds. Approximately 300 hunts will take place on Friday. Without intervention, by this time next year between 15,000 and 20,000 more foxes will have been killed by hunting.

As Christians we believe that how we treat the rest of Creation is every bit as much a question of morality as unemployment or homelessness. We also remember the example of the 5th-century French bishop, St Hubert, who was promoted by his Christian vocation to renounce deerhunting as a sport.

We welcome the Boxing Day publication of *A Christian Case Against Hunting* by the Christian Socialist Movement, which represents an important contribution to this ethical debate.

We recognise that the Government has many pressing issues to deal with; but we hope and pray that time will be found for legislation to ensure that this will be the last Boxing Day when the savage and terrifying death of an animal is treated as a sport.

Yours faithfully,
TALWYN CAMBRENSIS,
TOLU ABIOLA,
JOHN AUSTIN BAKER,
MAXWELL CRAIG,
RICHARD DOVER,
COLIN HULME,
DOMINIC READING,
MICHAEL ROFFEN,
DONALD SOPER,
c/o Christian Socialist Movement,
Bradley Close, White Lion Street, N1,
December 23.

From Bishop Hugh Montefiore

Sir, I was saddened to be asked by some of my fellow Christians to add my name to a letter to you as publicly joining part of the movement to stop foxhunting. I have not done so.

I should have thought that, on any showing, we have a prior duty to prevent stress and suffering by domesticated rather than wild animals, since wild species in the course of nature have been subject to predation, while domesticated species have not.

So I would pay more attention to the predominantly urban abolitionists of foxhunting if they gave priority in their publicity to the stress suffered by millions of hens in batteries rather than the comparatively few foxes in the hunting field.

But then, battery hens are shielded from the public gaze; and, what is more, they provide urban multitudes with cheap eggs and poultry, while foxes do not. And what about the countless turkeys consumed over Christmas?

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MONTEFIORE,
White Lodge, 23 Bellevue Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW17 7EB,
December 23.

Reindeer recruit

From Mrs Joanna Haines

Sir, At least Rudolph can be proud of his name (letters, December 17, 23).

For years Donner flew noisily with his flashy partner, Blitzen. However, modern editions of Clement C. Moore's poem have turned him into Donner — a reindeer once full of sound and fury, now signifying nothing. Who better to provide space to restore Donner's dignity than The Thunderer?

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA HAINES,
74 Gordon Road, W5 2AR,
December 23.

Hard cases

From Mr John Griffiths

Sir, Your headline today, "GP code reveals hard cases", reminds me of our family doctor in the 1930s. Like many doctors then, he ran his own dispensary which made up his own prescriptions. One of these, for hypochondria, was simply "ADT".

Any Darn Thing usually consisted of water, peppermint, Epsom salts and colouring.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRIFFITHS,
28 Palace Road,
East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9DL,
December 21.

From the Reverend Julian Hardyman

Sir, At the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham, the code NBFI occasionally appears on patient notes. It communicates clandestinely that the patient is "Not Bad For Illness".

Yours etc,
JULIAN HARDYMAN,
96 Arbory Road, Cambridge CB4 2JF.
jhardyman@btm.net

From Dr R. L. Marshall

Sir, Though not of the profession, I did hear from a doctor in medicine of an entry of considerable though covert honesty: GOK — God Only Knows.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. MARSHALL,
Holly Cottage, Woodhouse Eaves,
Leicestershire LE12 8RN,
December 20.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
December 25: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Prince of Wales is to visit Sri Lanka in February for the country's 50th anniversary independence celebrations. He will also visit Nepal and Bhutan early in the same month.

The official visit to Sri Lanka is going ahead despite continued fighting in parts of the island between security forces and the Tamil Tigers.

On October 15, a bomb left in a truck exploded next to a hotel in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, killing at least 16 people and injuring more than 150.

Current Foreign Office advice to travellers is to "minimise" time spent in the city as "further incidents cannot be ruled out". Visitors are also advised not to visit the north and east of the country.

Birthdays today

Professor D.H. Barlow, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 48; Captain George W. Burnet, Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian, 70; Professor Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor, Nottingham University, 53; Sir Alastair Dunne, former chairman, Thomson Scottish Petroleum, 89; Sir Christopher Hewerton, former President, Law Society, 68; Mr Rohan Kanhai, former cricketer, 62; Mr Eric Kinder, former chairman, Smith and Nephew, 70; Professor Thea King, clarinetist, 72; Miss Jane Lapointe, actress, 53; Mr Dermot Murnaghan, broadcaster, 38; Mr David Perry, former chairman, John Waddington, 60; Mr Denis Quilley, actor, 70; Miss Anna Scher, founder, Anna Scher Theatre, 53.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Gray, poet, London, 1716; Lord George Gordon, Protestant agitator, London, 1751; Charles Babbage, pioneer of calculating machines, Totnes, 1792; Dion Boucicault, actor and dramatist, Dublin, 1822; Henry Miller, novelist, New York, 1891; Mao Zedong, Chairman of the People's Republic of China 1949-59, Shaohan, Hunan province, 1893; Victor Hely-Hutchinson, composer, Cape Town, 1901.

DEATHS: Claude Helvetius, philosopher, Voré, 1771; John Fogherill, physician, London, 1780; John Wilkes, political reformer, London, 1797; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeologist, Naples, 1890; Roger Keyes, Baron Keyes, Admiral of the Fleet, Buckingham, 1945; James Stephens, novelist and poet, London, 1950; Harry S. Truman, 33rd American President 1945-53, Kansas City, 1972; Sir Lennox Berkeley, composer, 1989.

The German battleship Scharnhorst was sunk by the Royal Navy, 1943.

Appointment

The Rev Dr Chris Wigglesworth, general secretary of the Board of World Mission of the Church of Scotland, who retires at the end of April, 1998, has been appointed Principal of St Andrew's Hall, Selby, Oak, Birmingham, from May.

Churchill's railway carriage and Queen Mother's coach to go on show

£4m plan to extend railway museum

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE only private rail coach ever to be used by a Prime Minister for trips around the country is to become the centrepiece of a new £4 million extension of the National Railway Museum.

On show with it when the new wing opens will be two coaches from the Royal Train, used during the war by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Work on the wing will start in the new year with the aid of a £2 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and it should open during the summer of 1999.

The carriage was part of George VI's Royal Train and was given to Winston Churchill by the monarch for his own use during the Second World War.

Richard Gibbon, a senior engineer at the museum in York, said: "It was a mark of the esteem in which the King held the Prime Minister. No other Prime Minister, before or since, has had the use of such a private coach. King George obviously knew the morale-boosting effect of Winston Churchill turning up on a visit."

However Andrew Scott, the head of the museum, recalls one occasion when his visit in the carriage almost had the opposite effect.

He said: "The Prime Minister travelled overnight from London by rail for an early morning visit to Coventry after it had suffered yet another devastating attack by Nazi bombers. But his train arrived in the city before the Great Man had finished his breakfast. He insisted on completing his meal and ordered the train to halt outside the station until he had consumed his last slice of toast."

"While the civic dignitaries who had turned out to welcome Winnie tapped their feet on the platform, other traffic into the mainline station backed up along the track behind the Prime Minister's train."

"His driver protested, but was told not to move and Mr Churchill's personal bodyguard was sent on to the footplate to ensure that he complied. One report suggested a trial of strength between the two with the security man clinging tightly to the brake as the driver tried to edge his train into the station. Eventually breakfast was concluded and the visit continued without further problems."

The carriage was built in 1920 for the chairman of the



The Queen Mother's bedroom in the railway carriage in which she travelled around Britain during the war



Plain on the outside but luxurious within - the coach given to Churchill by King George VI

London and North-Western Railway, but within three years the company had amalgamated with three others to form the London Midland and Scottish and the luxurious coach became surplus to requirements. Such was its high quality and level of comfort that it was included in the fleet of rolling stock from which the Royal Train was drawn.

Some 60ft long, the saloon is in three sections: at one end is a glass-walled lounge with sofas, armchairs and occasional tables and at the other is a windowless, wood-panelled bedroom with a conference table and eight seats. The central section contains a single bedroom, kitchen and bathroom with a cubicle for a personal attendant.

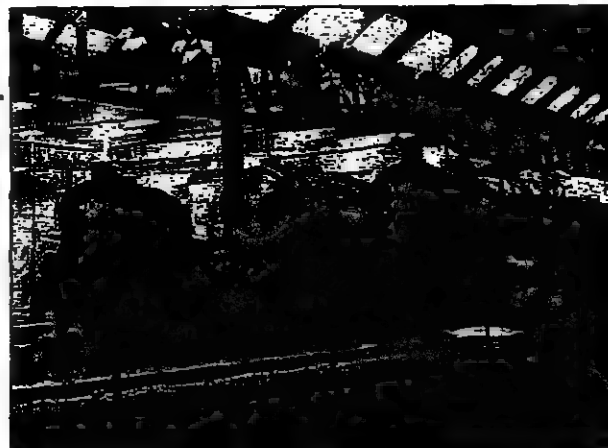
Churchill had the coach

fitted with a radio link so that he could still direct the war effort while he was away from Whitehall on morale-boosting visits around Britain.

After the war the carriage returned to the Royal Household and later had a new chassis and bogies fitted to allow it to travel at the faster speeds of modern trains. It remained in service with the Queen until about ten years ago and has been in store since then.

The gallery will be built on the site of an original locomotive repair yard and the museum plans to reopen part of the maintenance area with a viewing gallery so that visitors can see restoration work in progress.

The wing will also include some unusual memorabilia including a company coat of



The old motive power depot at York, the site of the planned extension to the rail museum

arms from the King's Cross to Edinburgh night express which was derailed on September 10, 1906, after mysteriously racing through a scheduled stop at Grantham, killing 14 including the two-man crew. In spite of an exhaustive Board of Trade investigation no explanation for the crash was ever found.

Also on show will be a cut-away model of an 1890s passenger coach which was built specially as a defence exhibit in a murder trial to show that the accused could not possibly have fired the fatal shot.

The displays will also include parts from an early locomotive lost 150 years ago in a sailing ship wreck off the

Western Isles. It was being transported across the Atlantic from its Glasgow builders to the rail network of Nova Scotia but the vessel foundered in a storm.

Michael Bailey, a diving enthusiast, discovered the wreck by accident ten years ago. He has brought several pieces to the surface and continues to search for more. It was so well preserved that screws were still filled with their original tallow protection.

Mr Scott said: "We have great plans for the new wing and see it becoming an exciting place for a wide spectrum of visitors from families and schools to railway enthusiasts and social historians."

Latest wills

Hyman Flax, of London N2, left estate valued at £7,949,661 net.

Derek Leslie Smith, of Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £2,375,994 net.

Marion Hope Rattey, of Dorkeswell, Honiton, Devon, left estate valued at £2,266,342 net.

Robert Murray, retired solicitor, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £761,014 net.

Rosemary Kate Thompson, of Leazes, East Sussex, left estate valued at £518,992 net.

Eric James Newnes, of Brighton, East Sussex, left estate valued at £302,332 net.

Harold Francis Archer, of Egham, Surrey, left estate valued at £242,909 net.

Decia Jean Crawford, of Hampton, Middlesex, left estate valued at £738,361 net.

Arthur Edward Barre, of Taunton, Somerset, left estate valued at £505,954 net.

Tongway Division Girl Guides, Devon Boy Scouts and Honiton Division of the Girl Guides, shares in her residuary estate in the National Trust, Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Children's Hospice South West at Barnstaple.

Robert Murray, retired solicitor, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £761,014 net.

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Nesting puffins tunnel into history

By NORMAN HANMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

NATURE and culture have come into conflict on Fair Isle, where puffins are threatening an Iron Age fort. Their nesting tunnels are reaching deep into the stratified layers of the fort's history, scrambling the message of the past.

The Landberg fort, on a promontory overlooking Fair Isle's harbour, has a complex set of defences dating from the last few centuries BC, with multiple ditches and ramparts defending the inhabitants against any aggressor bold enough to journey from

Orkney or Shetland, or from further afield on the Scottish or Scandinavian mainlands. There may also have been a blackhouse behind the rampart.

The puffins, who occupy empty rabbit burrows when they can, and otherwise dig their own, are making a mess of the hitherto well-preserved remains. "Most people are aware of the damage that rabbits can do to archaeological sites, but some may not know that puffins also dig nest tunnels for themselves," said Dr Noel Rofat of Historic Scotland.

Puffins are protected by law, and Landberg is also a site of

special scientific interest (SSSI), so Dr Rofat has had to negotiate with Scottish Natural Heritage before disturbing them. "Fortunately, only a few pairs of the 30,000 resident puffins had to be excluded: the holes were blocked in the spring before they arrived."

The burrows reach down at least a metre, and Professor John Hunter of Birmingham University has carried out rescue excavations before the site is left to the birds. The most surprising discovery was a rock-cut, paved subterranean chamber: such chambers may have been cool storage for food or used as

hollows in time of danger.

University news

Oxford
Jesus College

First in Honour Modern Languages
Samuel Adlen (Physics), Christine Ashton (Physics), Claire Hamilton (Engineering Science), Cheun Ho (PPE), Dzinia Kabanebe (Mathematics), Sarah Langford (Human Sciences), Jenny McCullough (English), Joseph Moorhouse (Physics), Harry Morrison (Modern History), Edward Rackham (Chemistry), Christine Sturge (Human Sciences), Samuel Thomson (Modern Languages), David Tiltman (Modern History), Richard Winslade (Physics).
All the above have been awarded a College Prize of £75 in books.

College prizes for the award of a university prize to:
Hon Wai Lam, Gibbs Prize in Chemistry; Christopher Scott, Gibbs Book Prize; Anabel Todd, Thacker Prize in Chemistry; Hon Wai Lam, Unilever Physical Chemistry Practical Prize, 1996-97; Glen O'Hara, Gladstone Memorial Essay Prize, 1996; Katrina Smith, Warwick Vickers Derridology Prize, 1996 (joint award); Aitchee Sharma, Martin Wronker Prize in Pharmacology, 1996.

College prizes have been awarded to the following students:
J N L Baker Prize in Geography jointly to Claire Gifford and Siwan Davies; Blackley Prize in Modern Languages, Nathaniel Wei; Bowers Award, Peter Chew; Marion Bradley Prize in Physics, jointly to Robert Hinch and Daniel Jeans; Davies Prize (for best performance in a Final Honour School), Jonathan Lewis; Lawrence Moss, Annabel Todd; Anthony Fletcher Awards, Emma Vardy, Aldo Guiducci, Cameron Mabon, Andrew Jones, Edward Carlin, Taina Gails; Dehgan-Tafti Prize, jointly to Mui-han Pui and Michael Beadle; Dehgan-Tafti Travel Scholarship, Cameron Mabon; Gerner Prize in Classics, Jenny Burgess; Green Studentships, Robert Crow, Oliver Gadeny, Helen Mills, Victoria Vasey, Madeline Watson; E C Hart, Andrew Jones, Stuart Cowley; Maddison Prize in Modern Languages, Guy Weston-Smith; Paget Awards, jointly to Siwan Davies and Claire Gifford and Sarah Lee; D G Ritchie Prize in PPE, Samantha Salvia; Junior Vaughan Prize in Mathematics, Gareth Smith; Wilson Prize in Law, Nicholas Soles; C F Williamson Prize in English, Jago Russell; Woodward Prize in Chemistry, Christopher Seward, Simon Cheever, Edward Rackham.

Elections
To Scholarships
Samuel Adlen (Lady Manners School, Bakersfield, Derbyshire), Katharine Gooding (Sharnbrook Upper School, Bedford), Claire Hamilton (Wallasey High School, Wirral), Cheun Ho (National Junior College, Singapore), Dzinia Kabanebe (Westcliff High School, Essex).

To a Mayricle Exhibition:
Timothy Bennett (Monmouth School, Gwent), David Cowbig (St Albans RC High School, Gwent), Leah Griffiths (Neath College, West Glamorgan), Alan Moss (Bishop Gore School, Swansea for 1998-99).

To a Mayricle Exhibition:
Alexandra Ashton (Bolton Sixth Form Centre), Simon Joyce (Poole Grammar School, Dorset).

To an Arts Exhibition in Spanish:
Samuel Thomson (Millfield School, Somerset).

To Graduate Scholarships:
Emma Despland, MSc, Laval University, Canada; Daniel Hullah, BA, Daniel Kaplan, BA, Andrew May, BA, Andrew Smith, BA.

To the Old Members' Graduate Scholarships:
Charalambos Neophytou, BA, To the East European Graduate Scholarships:
Daniel Smith, MA, University of Sofia, Bulgaria.

To the Sir John Rids Scholarships:
Ingo Mitzendorf, MA, Philipps Universität, Marburg, Germany.

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I wait for the Lord with long
ing, yet my hope in him
is not vain, for my soul waits
for the Lord, and he will
answer me, and will
deliver me from all my
troubles. Psalm 130: 5, 6

BIRTHS

BUTLER-GIBSON - On December 1st, to Sarah and Robert, a son, Samuel Robert John, a further son Lucy.

COOKE - On December 22nd, to Penny (née Norton) and Gary, a son, Harry James Alfred.

SMITH - On December 22nd, to John and Anne, a son, Simon John, a brother for Alexander and Henry.

STEPHENSON - On 13th December 1997, a twin son, Matthew Curtis, to John (née Moss) and Philip. With thanks to all at Torbay Hospital Maternity Unit.

WARD - On 21st December 1997, to Lisa and Justin, a beautiful daughter, Danielle Lauren.

WIFFELL - On December 19th, to Emma (née Wignall) and Mark, a beautiful son, Jack Gabriel Wignall.

DEATHS

GRANTON - Isabel May, widow of Bryan, sister of Andrew, John and David, and much loved mother of David, peacefully in Sobell House on 22nd December 1997, aged 80 years. The Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday 30th December at 2.15 pm in the Memorial Chapel, Oxford Cemetery. Flowers may be sent, or if desired, donations for Sobell House, c/o Barnes & Paine, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4TA.

SALVATORE-CHAMPAGNE - Norma Hall (née Lewis), widow of Sir Weldon Salvatore-Champagne. Died peacefully on 21st December 1997, aged 95 years. She will be greatly missed. Funeral service at St George's Church, Leamington, on Friday 2nd January, at 11.30 am. Burial in the same church. Donations to St George's Church, Leamington, or to the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0EL. Tel: 0203 242525. Service of Thanksgiving will be arranged for a later date.

STEPHENSON - On 13th December 1997, a twin son, Matthew Curtis, to John (née Moss) and Philip. With thanks to all at Torbay Hospital Maternity Unit.

WARD - On 21st December 1997, to Lisa and Justin, a beautiful daughter, Danielle Lauren.

WIFFELL - On December 19th, to Emma (née Wignall) and Mark, a beautiful son, Jack Gabriel Wignall.

OBITUARIES

EDDIE CHAPMAN

Eddie Chapman, wartime spy, died on December 11 aged 83. He was born on November 7, 1914.

Safecracker, jailbreaker, wartime double agent, lounge lizard and latterly health farm owner, Eddie Chapman had a life of the sort which makes a barely believable, and true, movie — as indeed it did. Yet, amid the welter of semi-fictional details which constituted his curriculum vitae, there was a solid core of truth.

He was, indeed, a highly successful, though somewhat erratic and eventually untrustworthy, British-run double agent in the Second World War. This was a career which, improbably, he owed to his having been in jail in the Channel Islands at the time of the German occupation. This, in turn, was the result of a reasonably successful career as a gentleman criminal, which had followed a spell in the Coldstream Guards. In a life which seemed almost a parody of itself, Chapman was the archetypal hero-villain/charmer-rat, and remained so almost until the end of his life. He was, needless to say, immensely attractive to women.

Edward Donald Chapman (as he was never thereafter to be known) was born in Sunderland and grew up on Wearside. He began his working life in the shipbuilding trade and then, in the desperate state of the economy in the 1930s, joined the Coldstream Guards. Although this gave him some cachet in later life (he looked a plausible Guards' officer although he in fact served in the ranks) he and military life did not suit. He tended to go AWOL for long periods and was eventually discharged.

From then until the outbreak of the Second World War his career was like something out of an Ealing studios film, in which gentleman burglars puff on ebony cigarette holders and sip fino sherry (or Krug champagne), probably with

their arms round glamorous women, while contemplating their next job. He was actually quite good at this line of work, good enough to be hired in the 1960s as a sort of honorary crime correspondent of *The Sunday Telegraph*, whose readers he then proceeded to warn against the attentions of people like him.

Cinemas were his favourite target, since they carried plenty of cash overnight as they did not, in those days, empty their tills of the evening's take. As a safe-cracker his favoured device was a condom full of gelignite. He made enough money to be able to frequent the West End nightspots which were his natural haunt. Although a compulsive talker — and boaster — he led a charmed life. His suits, his grooming and his suave manner made him seem an unlikely villain.

He was, of course, bound to get arrested, but on the first occasion he was, fleeing southwards after a bungled job in Edinburgh, he was merely remanded on bail. He fled to Jersey where he might have been safe. But he was quite incapable of giving up his old habits and, in March 1939, for blowing a safe in St Helier, to steal the paltry sum of £25, he was arrested and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

In the undemanding atmosphere of incarceration there, his natural proclivities soon asserted themselves. Stealing a suit from the prison governor's son (with his gentlemanly bearing, he had managed to wrangle a job as personal servant to the governor), he scaled a 50ft wall surrounding St Helier jail and jumped to liberty. This liberty did not last long. Improbably equipped with a strapping net, he was discovered by police on Plémont beach on the northwest of the island. After a short, sharp struggle, described by onlookers as "a first-class scrap", he was overpowered and taken back into custody. He was sentenced to an additional 12 months' imprisonment, this time with hard labour.

This might have been the beginning of a weary time for Chapman. But deliverance was at hand in the unlikely shape of the invasion of the Channel Islands by the Germans.



From left, Chapman, Billy Hill and the boxer George Walker discuss the mysterious blaze on Hill's yacht *Flamingo*, in a Soho pub

In exchange for his liberty, Chapman offered to conduct sabotage missions in Britain for the Germans who were only too ready to believe that someone of his background was in a highly disaffected state of mind. He was given the codename Fritz and in December 1942 was parachuted into Britain.

His mission was to blow up the de Havilland factory near Hatfield where the Mosquito was being assembled.

On landing, he contacted the police and demanded to be put in touch with Scotland Yard. The police passed him on to MI5 to whom he told his story. Rechristened Zig-Zag by British Intelligence, he became a double agent, his first task being to help to

"destruction" of the Hatfield factory. This required elaborate deception. Chapman had to be seen to have "stolen" the explosives for the job. Luckily his previous career made it easy for him to accomplish this, and an explosion which gave the appearance of having caused great damage to the factory was engineered. Deceived by the results of their aerial reconnaissance, his Abwehr masters were highly impressed.

It was now the Double Cross committee's aim to get him back to Germany so that he could be briefed for further "sabotage" work against Allied targets. He worked his way in a British ship to neutral Portugal where he was given a bomb to plant by a German agent. Instead, he turned it over to the ship's master, and then staged a disappearance under cover of a dockside brawl.

But his espionage career had

already passed its apogee. Later in the war he was sent back to Britain by the Germans and again came under MI5's wing. But in London he took to associating with his old underworld cronies. His indiscreet behaviour in the West End nightspots he was able to frequent regularly, thanks to the handsome payment he had received from the Germans for his first mission, did not endear him to his MI5 controllers. Eventually British Intelligence dispensed with his services.

By this time the war was drawing to an end and he managed to see it out without falling foul of the Abwehr.

For their part, the British authorities agreed to overlook his past criminal record, as a reward for his wartime services. In spite of official attempts to prevent him, he eventually published an account of his wartime exploits, *The Eddie Chapman Story* (1953), which in turn spawned a rather messy film, *Triple Cross* (1967), starring Christopher Plummer and Yul Brynner.

Although he was frequently in trouble with the law throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Chapman managed to stay out of jail. In the 1950s he was a close friend of the self-styled "King of Soho", the club owner and underworld boss Billy Hill. With Hill, he took part in a number of exotic-sounding — but mainly, in fact, merely ridiculous — contraband and kidnapping adventures in the latter's motor yacht *Flamingo*, which was at one stage wanted by police and coastguard services from one end of the Mediterranean to the other. On one occasion she mysteriously caught fire in Toulon harbour, giving rise to suspicions that she had been sabotaged.

But Chapman survived his dubious connections unscathed, and in 1994 featured in a BBC television programme *Underworld*, as one of the elder statesmen of the criminal fraternity. He also ran a successful health club in Herefordshire.

Chapman is survived by his wife Betty, and a daughter.

CHRISTOPHER ST JOHN ELLIS



Ellis, left, and the Rev Christopher Courtland, with whom he founded the Ocean Youth Club, aboard the latter's "gentleman's" yacht *Duet*

Christopher St John Ellis, GM, sailor and youth leader, died on December 18 aged 77. He was born on June 20, 1920.

AN ENEMY of convention, Christopher St John Ellis devoted much of his life to challenging the established order, usually with great humour. It was typical that his George Medal should have been awarded for defusing a wartime bomb he had been ordered not to touch, in a Plymouth hospital. It was also said he had dismantled an explosive device with a teaspoon while in a state of semi-consciousness in Malta, where he lay in a near-coma for a month after taking the full blast of an Italian stick bomb. His bravery helped to keep the harbour clear for Allied access to Suez.

Chris Ellis's love of sailing stemmed from a childhood discovery that life at sea relieved the lung problems from which he suffered all his life: whooping cough, chronic asthma and the bouts of pneumonia (to which he finally succumbed). At 16 he sailed his father's 36-ft Bawley single-handedly down the English Channel, without

permission — and later conceived ocean cruises as a cure for ill of a more social kind. After the war he devoted much of his life to working with teenagers first at Radley, but then from more deprived backgrounds. And he later flouted convention, to become one of the first Eton and Oxford-educated headmasters of a secondary modern. He worked tirelessly to create opportunity for the less privileged. Suspicious of organised religion, he believed passionately in the human spirit, and in the Ocean Youth Club created an environment in which the potential of some of the most excluded young children could be realised.

In 1950 he made the first of two transatlantic voyages — two with Peter and Susan Pye in *Moonraker*. In his account of the trip, Peter Pye recalls Ellis trying to eat a whole tree of bananas, in a vain effort not to waste the fruit which had all ripened at once. Inspired by these great pioneers of ocean cruising, Chris Ellis conceived the idea of a passage — often in extreme conditions — could be the perfect antidote to antisocial behaviour.

Some years later he made the second trip to America — but this time his own 53ft pilot cutter *Theodora* was crewed entirely by school-leavers. In 1956 the Warden of Radley gave permission for *Theodora* to be entered in the first Tall Ships Race from Torbay to Lisbon. She lost her topmast in the Bay of Biscay — but two years later she won her class in the second Tall Ships contest.

These voyages were the genesis of the Ocean Youth Club — founded in 1960 with the Rev Christopher Courtland, whose turn-of-the-century gentleman's yacht *Duet* made up its first fleet with *Theodora*. To date, a hundred thousand children have sailed with the OYC.

By the 1960s Ellis's pioneering attitude to social work brought him to Stevenage, where urban planners for the new town had not reckoned with a generation of bored young men who were ripping up cinema seats. As at Radley, where he responded to a roving brief with inspirational extracurricular ideas and expeditions, Marlow Secondary Modern gained its first rowing boat under his direction (bought with his own money).

and was later to produce one of Britain's great Olympians: Steve Redgrave.

Ellis's skills as an educationist had not gone unnoticed in more illustrious circles too: in 1955 he had turned up at Balmoral in the unlicensed Austin lorry which had already made him famous at Radley, to tutor the young Duke of Kent. It was said that the hair of a pupil had turned white overnight after its brakes failed (as they often did) while Ellis was overtaking between a bus and a lorry.

Chris Ellis was all his life a great inventor. His devotion to technology arose from his wartime frustration with the Special Services Unit. By 1945 operatives like him were being assigned to Heath-Robinsonian inventions such as landing craft intended to sink and then re-inflate. The experience impressed upon him the importance of good design, of which he became a pioneer in the academic field.

Having taught Peter Cook in the Marionette Club at Radley, he went on to introduce design to the curriculum at Eton, where he was an inspirational force in the School of Mechanics. He oversaw tremendous projects from theatrical set building to yacht-lifting and it was here that a team built a clock out of macaroni. He later became a keen correspondent to the letters page of various newspapers on the importance of technology in education. His own boathouse at Eton and then on the Isle of Wight were filled with craft he had himself designed. And time is kept in the Ellis household by a clock which as well as telling the time of day, the day of the week and the date of the calendar month, tells the date of the lunar month, phases of the moon, the local tide and its rise and fall.

Chris Ellis was a great draughtsman, and friends would find him shading with one hand and measuring perspective with the other — far he was ambidextrous. His earliest architectural drawings won him childhood prizes — but he continued to love buildings, and later told a friend he had willingly risked his life to defuse a bomb in St Paul's Cathedral.

He loved music, breaching the siege of Malta to have his flute delivered by submarine; the same instrument lies in its case at the house in which he lived on the Isle of Wight, to this day. Friends would often be commandeered as members of a makeshift orchestra beside the fire — where every visitor would have to contribute in some way to the Toy Symphony. His wife Gill would often take the lead with the triangle. She was the helmswoman of his remarkable life; together they made an inspirational team.

He is survived by her and their three sons and a daughter.

TOSHIRO MIFUNE

Toshiro Mifune, Japanese film actor, died in Tokyo on December 24 aged 77. He was born in Tsiangshu, China, on April 1, 1920.

IN A screen career that was shaped by the great director Akira Kurosawa, Toshiro Mifune became the best-known of Japanese actors outside his own country. Kurosawa launched Mifune's international career with *Rashomon*, which caused a sensation at the 1951 Venice Film Festival, and opened up to the West the great riches latent in contemporary Japanese cinema.

But Mifune is even better known in the West for his role in *The Seven Samurai* (1954), which, in its turn, spawned John Sturges's *The Magnificent Seven*, of 1960. Mifune's towering screen presence (which included rugged good looks which were in marked contrast to the refined, almost delicate, features of many of his contemporaries) made him a new look from Japanese leading men and his CV was passed to the casting department. His ability to stage the most dramatic bursts of anger came to the attention of Kurosawa, who cast him in his film *The Drunken Angel* of 1948.

But it was *Rashomon*, an enigmatic tale set in medieval Japan, which propelled Mifune, who played a cynical bandit, and Kurosawa on to the international stage. It went to the 1951 Venice International Film Festival where it was hailed as a revelation and won the Grand Prix. (It never had quite such an ecstatic welcome in Japan itself.) It also won an Academy Award for the best foreign film of its year. It was later reshaped as a — spectacularly bad — Hollywood western, *The Outrage* (1964).

Sichin no Samurai (*The Seven Samurai*) extended the reputation of both director and actor, particularly in Hollywood, where its debt to the western did not go unnoticed. Though set in 16th-century Japan, the resemblance of its plains to the lawless wide-open spaces of the American West was immediately apparent. Its progeny, *The Magnificent Seven*, which transmutes the samurai into seven American gunslungers who protect a Mexican village from bandits, had its original's energy, but none of its strange beauty.

Mifune's most distinguished work was done for Kurosawa, for whom he appeared in 16 films, but he went on to make more than 140 movies overall, becoming a popular international property as no other of his contemporaries did. His roles in Kurosawa's *Yojimbo* and *Red Beard* won him Best Actor Awards at the Venice film festivals of 1961 and 1965.

He was also a natural to provide "authentic" Japanese interest in such different Hollywood war films as the pre-tenacious *Hell in the Pacific* (1969), in which he played a Japanese naval commander stranded on a Pacific atoll with Lee Marvin's American pilot, and *Midway* (1976), a sprawling panorama of the decisive



Mifune in his best-known international role as one of *The Seven Samurai* (1954)

"home" to Japan after the war it was to a devastated country with few opportunities for a man of his skills.

He went for a technical job at the Toho film production company, but at that time directors were looking for a new look from Japanese leading men and his CV was passed to the casting department. His ability to stage the most dramatic bursts of anger came to the attention of Kurosawa, who cast him in his film *The Drunken Angel* of 1948.

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battle of the Pacific war, in which he was pitched in against the likes of Charlton Heston, Henry Fonda, Robert Mitchum, Glenn Ford and James Coburn.

In the meantime he had, in 1963, formed his own production company, Mifune Productions, which made a number of films. He had a shot at directing himself, but his one film, *The Legacy of Five Hundred Thousand*, was a resounding box-office flop.

His popularity in the West was increased even more when he was given a central role in the American television series *Shogun* (1980), a somewhat rambling, though visually opulent, adaptation of the James Clavell novel of that name. It won an Emmy award in 1981 for being the Outstanding Limited Series of the year.

Reflecting on his protégé's unique qualities in his autobiography, Kurosawa recalled: "It was above all the speed with which he expressed himself that was astounding. The ordinary Japanese actor might need ten feet of film to get across an impression: Mifune needed only three feet."

Toshiro Mifune is survived by two sons.

CHRISTMAS UNDER THE POOR LAW

When each London parish was the unit of administration as well as of assessment, Christmas under the Poor Law was, in fact, Christmas in the workhouses. Then each workhouse was a home for all old and young, sick and hearty, those who became inmates as a test of poverty and those who did so through helplessness — whether that helplessness arose from tender youth, old age, contagious disease, weak mind, or any other form of malady. Yesterday's festival, by the operation of the legislation of late years, found all this changed. London workhouses still contain many aged, many sick, many helpless from other causes of helplessness, but the young are no longer trained to pauperism, contagious diseases are no longer housed in workhouse walls and the imbecile no longer crowd the wards in London. All these classes are separated and separately looked after, and though they which formerly bound the well-to-do parishioner to take a personal interest in the care of those dependent upon the rates have been somewhat loosened, yet a passing review of what has been done and what is doing will show that alike in the interests of humanity, in the proper care of the sick poor,

ON THIS DAY
December 26, 1871

This is a favourable view of an institution which the public saw as its last refuge. George Lansbury said of one in 1892 that it was clean and polished, "but of goodwill, kindness, there was none..." George Sims's Christmas Day in the Workhouse (1903) was a powerful indictment of the system.

as well as in a statesmanlike dealing with floating pauperism, the change has had a beneficial influence upon the present and future of London.

In no London workhouse yesterday nor in the many schools raised out of the London rates were the usual Christmas bounties heaped. Altered in character as many of them are, still visitors from the outside world kept up the custom of looking to the well-doing of the rate-supported poor on this day. In no parts of London is this old usage more closely adhered to than in Marylebone, in the workhouses of the city of London, and in St George's, Hanover-square, places in which

there are special circumstances which admit of this custom. In the new institutions under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, too, now this year brought fairly into work the customs of the season were as far as possible observed. At Caterham Asylum, where there are, in round numbers, 1,000 imbeciles, and at Levensden Asylum, where there are 1,620, all the festivities of the season were allowed — within a judicious limit. These two large establishments take the place of the dingy wards in confined workhouse buildings in the midst of London, with occasional visits from the overworked medical man whose sorry duty it was to give daily attendance to the persons suffering from varied maladies within the workhouse walls. The happy change these institutions have provided to the classes for whom they were designed — namely, the harmless and incurable imbeciles who were formerly in the workhouse — is to be seen in the fact that, though deemed incurable, under the genial treatment of a cheerful place, many have recovered from a seemingly hopeless imbecility. Each of these institutions has an efficient medical and administrative staff, and the affairs of each are guided by committees, appointed by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and approved by the Local Government Board...

THE TIMES

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 26 1997

Two brighter shades of grey

Desert Orchid and One Man have more in common than colour and talent. Richard Dunwoody compares two great chasers

Comparisons between racehorses are invariably unsatisfactory — different styles, different temperaments, different strengths render the exercise futile. Today, however, I have no wish to avoid the inevitable, for mine is the privilege of having ridden the two great greys whose exploits have illuminated recent Christmases.

Desert Orchid was the horse of a jockey's dreams. Athletic and exuberant, he made every race a rollercoaster of emotions for his ever-growing legion of followers. His startling, snow-like colouring merely added to his popularity but, in truth, he needed no artificial charm. He won the King George VI Chase four Boxing Days out of five and I was his partner for the last two.

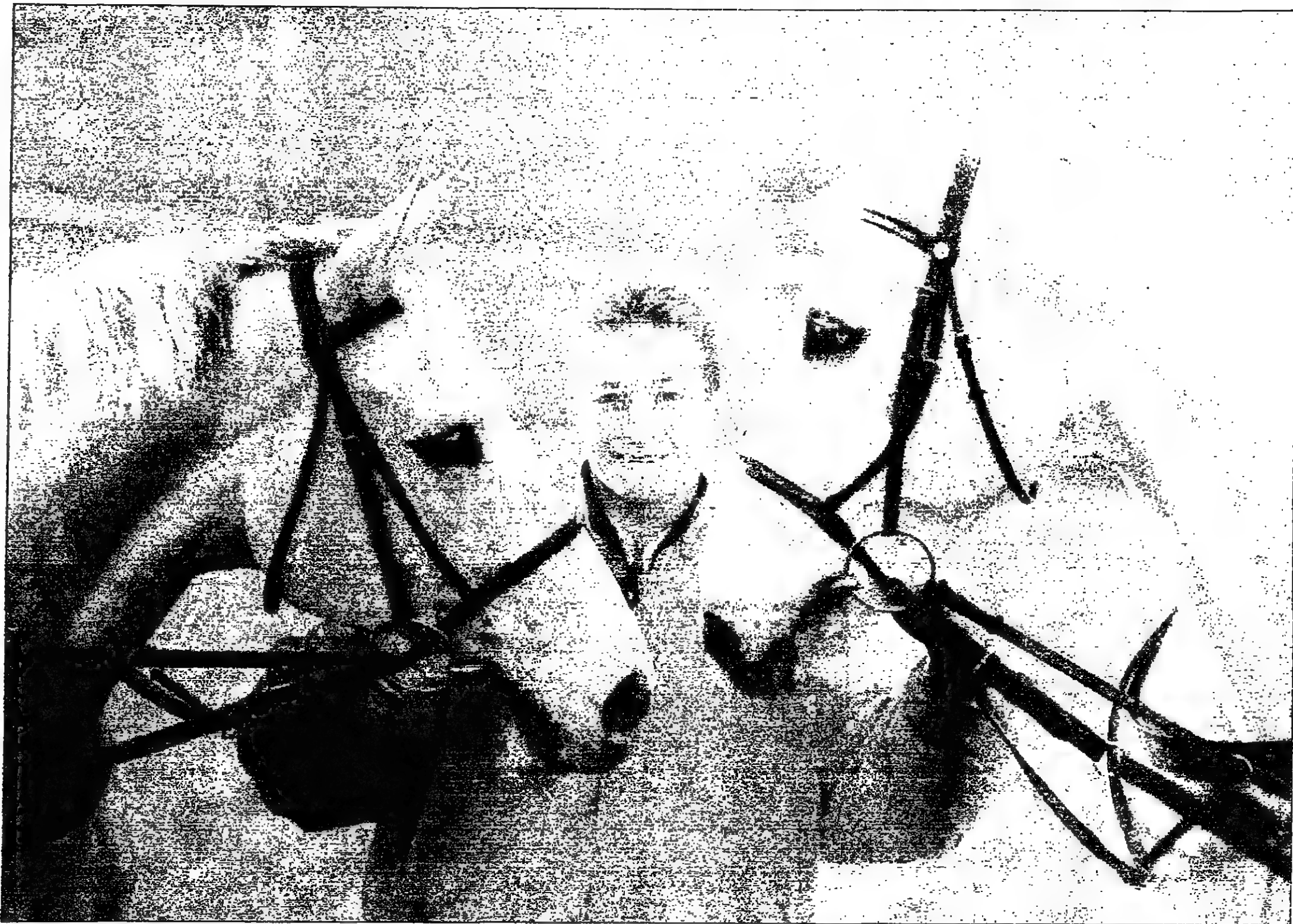
Now, seven years on from the last of that quartet, there is another giant grey, large in the public consciousness. His colouring is a shade darker and his style of running does not care to match the Pied Piperish Dessie, but One Man has won the past two runnings of the King George and today at Kempton Park he is favourite to emulate his spectacular predecessor with three in a row.

Before I assess our chances of success, I shall attempt some of those elusive comparisons, for when I saw the two greys together last week during a promotion for the race at Gordon Richards's yard in Cumbria, one thing struck me forcibly. Whatever else they may do differently, Desert Orchid and One Man share a rare intelligence.

To some, this will be perplexing; to others, probably, a nonsense. Intelligent horses? How do we know? Well, a horse cannot demonstrate human intellectualism, of course, but this does not mean that one is not brighter, more alert, observant and — yes — intelligent, than another. The best horses usually have this mental sharpness, this ability to notice things you would not expect, though it has to be said that it is not always an advantage.

In Desert Orchid, no one watching him closely could fail to notice his alertness, his love of taking in everything around him. Even in advanced retirement, he briefly went missing at Greystoke last week and was discovered at the top end of the yard, highly frustrated that the string had gone out on the gallops without him. He is a venerable 18 now, but apparently as bright as ever.

One Man may not quite match the charisma of Dessie but he is no less intelligent. In his last race at



Head-to-head: Dunwoody is perfectly placed to match Desert Orchid, right, and One Man, left, who is favourite to complete his King George hat-trick today

Huntingdon, he was immensely impressive but, as we reached the finishing post, he cocked his ears towards the stands in an unusual way. I honestly believe he had been listening to the noise of the race commentary over the speakers and was puzzled at it falling off.

A horse able to take in such peripheral sounds and emotions is obviously clever, in the right sense. Cleverness, when applied to a racehorse, can be a derogatory term and there have been those tempted to use it about One Man on the occasions — especially at Cheltenham in March — when he has failed to see out a race, indeed when he has gone from cruising to a painful crawl in barely a few strides.

To my knowledge, nobody connected with the horse has come up with the definitive explanation, but we all have our theories. I think back to his first King George, two winters ago. A frozen Christmas meant it had been switched to Sandown Park, early in January, and, if that was to happen now, the

theorists would say the stiff track and uphill finish were all against him. However, he showed no signs of stopping that day and went absolutely to his limit, his courage unquestionable.

He hit the front at the first fence, down the back, straight and stayed there resolutely, finishing 14 lengths clear of a high-quality field. I simply wonder if that race somehow left a mark, mental or physical.

I will certainly not be looking to have him in front so far out today. The tactics will be agreed between the trainer and myself but we seldom differ. There are enough renowned front-runners in the field for us to get a lead and, hopefully, produce him where it matters. It will not be straightforward, though. The rarity of winning three successive King Georges is one adverse factor: so, too, is the presence of two more greys with outstanding recent credentials.

Sunny Bay, perversely, impressed

me more on his comeback run at Haydock Park than when winning the Hennessy Gold Cup a fortnight later. There was no arguing with the way he strode up the straight at Newbury, though, and he will be a formidable rival.

Senior El Beirani's season has been a fairy-tale for the Gloucestershire husband and wife who own and train him. He has startled us all by winning the two big autumn handicaps at Cheltenham in great style and he is a brilliant jumper. Do not discount Barion Bank, running as well as ever and jumping better. Adrian Maguire was very good on him in the Hennessy, very definite at the obstacles, and, of course, he has won this race before.

I shall be surprised if the winner comes from outside these four but this is no one-horse, One Man event. As ever, it will be fast and spectacular, the perfect post-Christmas cheer, this year even greyer than ever.

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TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Lynne Truss at Stamford Bridge

David Hands meets a Lion at large



Under the skin of sport

BOXING DAY KINGS - HOW THE GREYS COMPARE	
<p>DESERT ORCHID</p> <p>Career record: 70 races 34 wins 11 seconds 8 thirds Career earnings: £224,000 Big race victories: As well as four wins in the King George VI Chase (1986, 1988, 1989, 1990) Desert Orchid has triumphed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup (1989), Irish Grand National (1990) and Whitbread Gold Cup (1988).</p>	<p>ONE MAN</p> <p>Career record: 31 races 18 wins 3 seconds 2 thirds Career earnings: £324,362 Big race victories: Twice winner of the King George VI Chase, unusually in the same year of 1996 as the 1995 race was put back a month because of bad weather on Boxing Day, One Man also has the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup in 1994 to his credit.</p>

BOXING DAY FOOTBALL

United they stand in league of their own

Oliver Holt can see no obvious challenge to Alex Ferguson's men for another season — at least

In recent years, at least, the song of delusion has remained the same. With the start of every season, the detractors have searched high and low for weaknesses in the structure of the Old Trafford fortress like Luke Skywalker and his rebel friends trying to pinpoint the flaw in the mother ship of the Empire. Like the Empire, though, the detractors have been made to feel The Force.

Once, a few seasons ago, Alex Ferguson was famously told by Alan Hansen that he would "never win anything with kids". His Manchester United side went on to achieve the double. This August, the critics wondered first whether United could possibly defend their championship without their great muse, Eric Cantona, then whether they would survive having lost their new captain, Roy Keane, to a serious knee injury.

United have just steamrollered on. Their excellence at home and abroad has been the dominant theme of the season so far. Nothing seems to be able to stop them. When any player, in any position, falls by the wayside because of injury or suspension, another is beckoned from the shadows and the machine rumbles on unhindered.

In Europe, United have embarrassed those cynics who still pay exaggerated heed to the reputations of the continental giants, by carrying all before them in the Champions' League. Their victory over Juventus at Old Trafford coupled with England's draw with Italy in Rome, which brought them automatic qualification for next year's World Cup, gave the game in this country a great shot in the arm.

With the domestic campaign now at its traditional halfway stage, United go into today's home game with Howard Kendall's struggling



The arrival of Sheringham, left, and the emergence of Scholes have helped Manchester United to maintain their dominance of the game

Everton side four points clear of the chasing pack. If the rest have been rendered wheezing and breathless by the chase, United have managed to give the impression that they have yet to stretch their legs.

They bought Teddy Sheringham to fill in for Cantona and, if he found it hard to settle in at first, the former Tottenham Hotspur striker is flourishing now. More than that, he seems to have freed up the debilitating case of striker's block that was weighing down Andy Cole.

It was said that United's European Cup hopes would founder on their lack of an established striker but Cole's recent avalanche of goals has made that a redundant argument now.

If Cole has been the star of the show, his goals helping United to blitz their way through the Champions' League above Juventus in group B to a relatively effortless qualification for the quarter-finals of the competition, Paul Scholes has been the revelation of the opening half of the season.

Even after his heroics for England in the Tournoi de France last summer, a regular place in the United side seemed in doubt until the injury to Keane, but Scholes has seized his chance. His neat goal in the home win over Juventus was a classic piece of clinical finishing, his passing has been breathtaking, his movement a joy to watch.

With Scholes and Nicky Butt an unbeatable pairing in the centre of midfield, Ryan Giggs maturing into the superstar everyone hoped he would become and Gary Pallister enjoying a career autumn, United are more likely to stretch their lead than see it reined in as winter turns to spring.

Of their challengers, neither Arsenal, whose ageing side is already showing signs of weakening as the wear and tear of the season takes hold, nor Blackburn Rovers, who have been commendably resuscitated by Roy Hodgson, nor Liverpool, still resolutely underachieving, appear to have the strength in depth or the consistency to make a concerted effort to dethrone the champions.

Forest to sue over payment to referee

By RICHARD HOBSON

NOTTINGHAM Forest have carried out their threat to issue a writ against Anderlecht for compensation after the Belgian club admitted the making a payment to the referee in the 1994 Uefa Cup semi-final. The club and the players involved in the case are pressing separate claims for a total of around £2 million.

Flip Goemans, the Belgian lawyer acting on behalf of Forest and players, said that Anderlecht had been given three months to agree a financial settlement, before the deadline imposed by Forest expired on Christmas Eve. Forest believe they are entitled to £1.5 million in gate receipts, television coverage and other commercial spin-offs forfeited through missing the final against Tottenham Hotspur. The 16 players due win bonuses and subsequent improvements to their contracts.

Anderlecht were 2-0 down from the first leg, but won the second game 3-0 as Forest saw what appeared a legitimate goal by Paul Hart disallowed and a dubious penalty awarded against Kenny Swain by Gervacio Muro, the referee.

Allegations of bribery surfaced last February when it emerged that Anderlecht were being blackmailed over the issue. Constant Vanden Stock, the former Anderlecht chairman, later admitted that Muro had been paid the equivalent of £18,000 the day after the game. Muro, from Spain, died in a car crash ten years ago. Anderlecht subsequently told Uefa that the payment to Muro was intended as a loan. However, Uefa decided to ban Anderlecht from European competition for a year the next time they qualify. Forest claim they are entitled to the vacant place and await Uefa's decision.

ly in midfield, in a way that United are not. If Rudi Gullit stays on as manager and is given more money to spend, next season could be the one in which West London celebrates.

For some, of course, all hope of rivalling United disappeared long ago. The managerial merry-go-round began, predictably, just as November dawned on the Premiership.

David Pleat at Sheffield Wednesday, was the first to go, sacked after a calamitous defeat at Old Trafford. Gerry Francis was next at Tottenham Hotspur, although he gave the impression that he had had to hack away through the shackles that Alan Sugar had fitted him with to get away.

Pleat will be back at Tottenham in the new year in some sort of general-manager role, overseeing the work of the somewhat eccentric Swiss disciplinarian, Christian Gross, the replacement for Francis. Their recruitment, though, was overshadowed by last week's arrival of Jürgen Klinsmann. The fact that man-

Their excellence at home and abroad has been the dominant theme of the season'

ager, board and supporters appear to be pinning their hopes on a 33-year-old who has scored two goals during a miserable season with Sampdoria in Serie A seems indicative of an approach that could be described as papering over the cracks.

And then there is Barnsley. The club that everyone wrote off before the season, the club that yearned to prove the doubters wrong and show us that it was possible for a small club to survive in the Premiership jungle, is anchored at the foot of the table.

They are beginning to get to grips with the reality of life in the top flight, they even pulled off the shock of the season with a 1-0 win at Anfield. If there is still any hope left on the last day of the season, though, it is likely to be extinguished then: that is when Danny Wilson and his team play host to Manchester United.

Kidderminster in for difficult time

By WALTER GAMMIE

IN RECENT seasons Kidderminster Harriers' matches against Bromsgrove Rovers have been the Vauxhall Conference's biggest Boxing Day box-office attraction. A crowd of 6,081 flocked to Aggborough last season for an encounter that Kidderminster lost 2-1.

The relegation of Bromsgrove to the Dr Martens League might well have created a void for instant nostalgia for the five Christmas games gone by were it not for the descent of Hereford United from the Nationwide League.

"It's a big swap for us," Graham Allner, the Kidderminster manager, said. "Our record gate figure was set against Hereford United. Although Bromsgrove is just ten miles down the road and Hereford is 35 miles away, there is a great tradition which dates to when there were three big clubs in the area. Well, it is Worcester and Hereford first, with us emerging later on."

In these safety-conscious days — and with the capacity at Aggborough fixed at 6,237 — Kidderminster will not, for the New Year's Day meeting, match that ground record, of 9,155, for an FA Cup first-round tie in 1948, but Allner reports Dave Reynolds, his chairman, breezily predicting a full house.

First, though, Kidderminster must go to Hereford, where the atmosphere prom-

ises to be highly charged. "They're on a cup run," Allner said. "The buzz you get from cup runs will ensure it will be a difficult fixture for us. There will be a big crowd, which will get behind them, and we expect we will have to defend very well. But we've got a bit of confidence and won't be going in like lambs to the slaughter."

That confidence is born from a conviction that after suffering a reaction to finishing runners-up to Macclesfield Town and losing Lee Hughes, who scored 30 goals in the Conference last season, and Marcus Bignot, their accomplished defender, to the Football League, Kidderminster's troubles have bottomed out at an uncomfortable seventeenth place in the table.

Allner has steadily rebuilt a side that now boasts only four regulars from last season and last month brought in Mike Bignall, 21, from Morecambe to partner Ian Arnold, a seasoned Conference striker, in attack. "Mike's full of goals," Allner said. "His record is one every two matches."

Stalybridge Celtic, who have not won for nine matches, this week appointed Mel Sterland as their manager and Imre Varadi as his assistant. Their first assignment is a trip to Northwich Victoria.

Smith set to bring stability

DENIS SMITH could not have presented a greater contrast to Ray Harford, his predecessor, when he discussed his priorities as the ninth manager of West Bromwich Albion in ten years (Richard Hobson writes). Where Harford declined to sign a contract during his ten months at The Hawthorns and cited the distance from his home in Buckinghamshire as the reason he left for Queens Park Rangers, Smith immediately agreed a three-year deal, checked into a local hotel and began to scour the local property guide for permanent accommodation.

Moreover, Smith, who left Oxford United to take up the job on Tuesday evening, pledged to sell his home on the outskirts of Oxford, even though renovation work has only recently been completed. "I believe I have to live in the local area to do the job correctly," he said.

Smith is anxious to give Albion managerial stability. "I was at Sunderland for nearly five years, York City for five and Oxford for four, so I consider myself a loyal man," he said. Assessing the first division, Smith said: "Middlesbrough appear to be the best side and Sunderland have started to look strong. We can finish in the top two, but otherwise a play-off final at Wembley would be nice."

Russell Kempson on the uncertain future of the lower divisions

Poor relation fighting for slice of cake

AS THE FA Carling Premiership, dripping in cash and full of self-importance, continues to congratulate itself at every step, the Nationwide League gratefully grabs each morsel that falls from the high table. There are not many scraps left, hence the radical plans put forward by the Football League chairmen at a meeting in London earlier this month.

Bizarrely, entitled Options Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto, they include a 12-club superleague, a six-division format, extra points for teams leading at half-time, penalty shoot-outs to decide drawn games and relegation play-offs. The proposals will be voted on in two months.

"We are acting to prevent the Premiership from leaving us high and dry," David Sheepshanks, the League chairman, said. "We are, to an extent, masters of our own destiny. We will leave no stone unturned." Cynics have long since suggested that football's rule-makers exist on another planet but at least the problems are being addressed.

The squabble over the devaluing of the Coca-Cola Cup rumbles on, too, with the League justifiably indignant that Uefa, the sports European governing body, should have taken away the prize of a Uefa Cup place for the winners of its knockout competition. And all because the FA



Premier League, which runs the Premiership, refuses to reduce its membership to 18. Again, the League has been active in trying to seek a solution. It has taken its case to the European Commission in Brussels and a verdict is expected in February, around the time of the two-legged Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals. "We remain confident of a favourable decision," Sheep-

shanks, a dogged pursuer of justice, said.

Middlesbrough, Reading and Ipswich Town play in the quarter-finals early in the new year and, with Reading meeting Middlesbrough at Elm Park, the Nationwide League is guaranteed a representative in the last four. Ipswich face the most daunting task of taking on Chelsea at Portman Road.

In the first division, the crowd is gradually rising to the top. Middlesbrough, away at Huddersfield Town this afternoon, lead the way, after a tardy start, ahead of Nottingham Forest on goals scored. Tucked in nicely behind are Sheffield United and

Sunderland but Swindon Town and Bradford City are on the slide and West Bromwich Albion have yet to recover from Ray Harford's sudden departure.

Charlton Athletic are on a high of five wins in seven matches, struggling aside the drug-related problems that still seem to haunt them, while Wolverhampton Wanderers could emerge from the pack if Mark McGhee, for once, delivers what he promises.

Ferny any three from ten for the drop, with Barry and Crewe Alexandra in adjacent freefall and Portsmouth all set as Terry Venables, their absentee chairman, considers World Cup coaching offers.

Taylor comes up trumps No relief in sight for sad Doncaster

WHEN Graham Taylor, the Watford general manager, assumed a more hands-on role at Vicarage Road at the start of the season, more than a few eyebrows were raised. Had he really recovered from his torrid time tending the England left vegetable patch? Had he not left Wolverhampton Wanderers in similarly fraught circumstances?

When John Ward, the former Bristol Rovers manager, was appointed to succeed Joe Jordan at Bristol City in March, more than a few oaths were uttered. How could the Ashton Gate board appoint a man from the wrong side of town?

Woe, woe and thine woe were predicted by many but, happily, Taylor and Ward have eased the fears of even their most demonic doubters to the extent that elevation from the Nationwide League second division appears all but assured. Watford, the leaders, are four points clear of Bristol City, who are 14 points ahead of Oldham Athletic, their nearest challengers.

Barring a slump of seismic proportions, the automatic promotion places have gone. The rest of the division, though, is a mess, unpredictable and open to as many interpretations as possibly imaginable. Highlighting the

contundrum, Walsall, who play Bristol Rovers today, lie in fifteenth position but are only four points outside the play-off zone.

The second division is certainly no soft touch, as many well-known figures have swiftly discovered. Michael Knighton, the Carlisle United chairman, dismissed Mervyn Day, his manager, in September, claiming that he could do better. Carlisle were 22nd when Day departed; under Knighton's guidance, they are now 24th.

Burnley, faring little better in 23rd, have struggled since Chris Waddle, the former England winger, took control, while the Kevin Keegan-Ray Wilkins partnership at Fulham, and the millions of Mohamed Al Fayed, have yet to inspire great things at Craven Cottage.

Micky Adams, turfed out by Al Fayed to make way for the Keegan-Wilkins combo, resurfaced at Brentford via Swansea City but has produced only one win in nine matches since he arrived at Griffin Park. Luton Town are also down among the driftwood.

Grimsby Town take the honours for hard graft, having played 33 league and cup games this season — the most of any club in the Nationwide League.

IT IS a distressing tale from the pit of the Nationwide League third division. Doncaster Rovers have played 27 league and cup matches this season and have won only once. They have scored 19 goals and conceded 71; they have had four players sent off and have used four managers. They are going nowhere — unless bankruptcy gets them first — but the Vauxhall Conference.

Perhaps Rovers' plight was best summed up when only 580 spectators turned up for their Auto Windscreens Shield northern section first-round tie against Rochdale at Belle Vue on December 9. Harvey Cunningham, their defender, was dismissed for the second time this season and they lost 1-0.

Brighton, still 'homeless' and rearing in Kent, Swansea City, Hull City and Darlington should maybe say a prayer that Doncaster do not go under before May, otherwise they could discover that their apparent safety net has been suddenly removed. Rovers' supporters — those that are left — are unlikely to receive much festive cheer from the visit of Mansfield Town this afternoon.

Notts County set the pace at the top, closely followed by Peterborough United and Lincoln City. Peterborough have given Barry Fry, their ebullient manager, much to crow about — not that he needs an excuse — with Jimmy Quinn and Martin Carruthers forging an impressive 34-goal partnership. Fry will hope that Quinn, 38, does not choose to exercise a clause in his contract that stipulates he can leave if a suitable manager's job becomes available elsewhere.

John Beck continues to guide Lincoln onwards and upwards, although their unbeaten 18-match sequence in league and cups ended earlier this month and they also lost on penalties to Barnley, of the UniBond League, in an FA Cup second-round replay. Rotherham United, managed by Ronnie Moore, have risen from twentieth place to sixth and are inching closer to the front-runners.

For Macclesfield Town, the division newcomers, it is so far so good at home — eight wins, three draws in 11 matches — but rather less good on the road. They go to Darlington today still seeking to break their duck.

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VILLA	SCORE	SPURS	W/TIME	F/TIME	4/11 COLLYMORE (A)
6/1	1-0	9/1	A. VILLA	A. VILLA	9/2 MILOSAVIC (A)
7/1	2-0	20/1	A. VILLA	DRAW	11/2 JOACHIM (A)
15/2	2-1	16/1	A. VILLA	SPURS	8/1 FERDINAND (T)
11/1	3-0	50/1	DRAW	A. VILLA	9/1 JENSEN (T)
11/1	3-1	40/1	SPURS	A. VILLA	10/1 DRAPER (A)
25/1	3-2	33/1	SPURS	SPURS	11/1 GINOLA (T)
17/2	0-0	12/2	SPURS	A. VILLA	16/1 EKHOGU (A)
6/1	1-1	6/1	SPURS	DRAW	17/2 NO GOALSCORER
14/1	2-2	14/1	SPURS	SPURS	

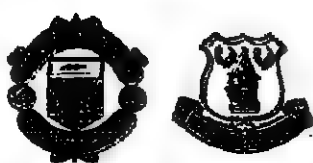
Other scores and updates.

Best odds 11 matches not completed.

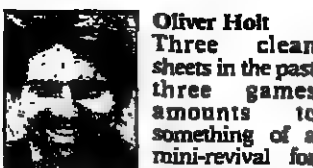
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BOXING DAY FOOTBALL



MANCHESTER UNITED
v
EVERTON
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Oliver Holt
Three clean sheets in the past three games amounts to a mini-revival for Howard Kendall and his beleaguered Everton team, but they will face the ultimate test of their defensive worth at Old Trafford today when they come up against the might of the leaders of the FA Carling Premiership.

Manchester United, who are building their opponents when they play well and squeezing them when they do not, are four points clear at the top of the table and showing precious few signs of vulnerability.

Andy Cole, who scored on his return to Newcastle United last Sunday, and Teddy Sheringham are forming such an impressive partnership that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who has scored some spectacular goals himself this season, seems destined to be left on the bench once more.

With Ryan Giggs also approaching what many feel is the best form of his career, adding hard work and consistency to his dazzling speed on the wing, and Paul Scholes restored to the heart of midfield after suspension, Everton will have to play considerably above their best —

of which not a great deal has been seen so far this campaign — to glean any return from this afternoon's match.

But after the gloom of the early season at Goodison Park, some hope has been restored to the faithful by the addition of new signings in the form of Thomas Myrre, the Norwegian goalkeeper, Mitch Ward and Carl Tiler.

Tiler, in particular, has impressed Evertonians who were sceptical about his arrival from Sheffield United, but he has more than filled the gap at the heart of the defence left by the suspension of Slaven Bilic, the Croatia international.

With Duncan Ferguson also suspended, Everton are likely to play with Danny Cadamarteri and Nick Barmby in attack.

Behind them, Gary Speed, the Wales captain, seems to have been galvanised by recent talk that he might be seeking a transfer from the troubled Merseyside club — Newcastle were said to be greatly interested.

It was Speed's late penalty at Filbert Street that gave Everton a priceless win over Leicester City.

United, though, will be keen to begin their festive programme in style in front of their own supporters.

With Gary Pallister and Ronnie Johnson in superb form in defence, it is hard to see Everton drawing any reward for the effort they are sure to put in. It should be a spirited match but only a fool would bet against United in their present mood.

PREDICTION: United to end Everton's revival.



Herr restored: Klinsmann is back at White Hart Lane, serving humble pie to Alan Sugar and, he hopes, goals to Tottenham Hotspur

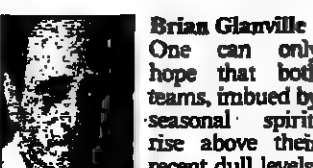


NEVER GO BACK

Jürgen Klinsmann should have a tale to tell for unexpected comebacks when he swept into White Hart Lane on Monday. Here are 11 other players who found that their boots were stamped 'return' rather than 'single'.

1. Graeme Le Saux (Chelsea)
Sold to Blackburn Rovers for £650,000, bought back by those (ironical) agents at St. James' Park for £5 million.
2. Les Sealey (Manchester United)
Signed on a free transfer then again on loan, three years later. He had some unfinished business in the Magpie.
3. Martin Keown (Arsenal)
George Graham sold him to Aston Villa for £200,000 in 1986 and re-signed him from Everton for £2 million 6-7 years later, the old shrewd.
4. Julian Dicks (West Ham United)
Went to Liverpool for £1.5 million in September 1993 and came back again 13 months later. At Anfield he grabbed the 14th shirt. 'Well, it did say Fowler'.
5. Vinnie Jones (Wimbledon)
A year at Leeds, a year at Sheffield United, a year at Chelsea before the prodigal returned. They even moved grounds while he was away, but he still loved them.
6. Neil Ruddock (Tottenham Hotspur)
Attracted by his appalling disciplinary record at The Dell, Spurs re-signed him.
7. Colin Hendry (Blackburn Rovers)
Blond ambition took him back to Ewood Park from Manchester City.
8. Peter Beardsley (Newcastle United)
He left when a club rule that Newcastle sold their best players and returned, via Liverpool and Everton, when they realised it was probably a mistake.
9. Brian Deane (Sheffield United)
He went to Everton back, his price dropping from £2.9 million to £1.1 million in the process.
10. Mark Hughes (Manchester United)
From Old Trafford to the New Camp and back again. The best buy-back ever?
11. Robert Fleck (Norwich City)
More Le Saux-like shrewdness by Chelsea, who lost £1.45 million and gained five goals.

Compiled by Richard Whitley



Brian Glanville
One can only hope that both teams, imbued by seasonal spirit, rise above their recent dull levels. The virtue seems to have gone out of both of them. For Arsenal, Ian Wright has lost his way and even Dennis Bergkamp, since his return from suspension, has not been the same inspirational force. In midfield, David Platt, once such a star for England and several Italian clubs, is playing on borrowed time and the lack of a creator in midfield grows more and more apparent.

Tony Adams is now out for weeks with back trouble and his England future seems in jeopardy.



ARSENAL
v
LEICESTER CITY
Today, 12.0 (sold out)

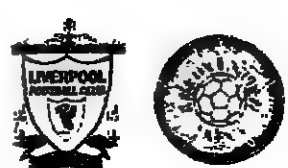
dy. Even David Seaman, in goal, has of late looked strangely vulnerable. Leicester's own goalkeeper, Kasey Keller, will no doubt be anxious to atone for the decisive penalty he so rashly gave away against Everton last week. Leicester's attack seems to be

relying heavily on Steve Guppy's wing play and crosses and what Emile Heskey can make out of next to nothing.

Alan Hansen may be right when he says that the highly promising Heskey needs to add aggression to his outstanding pace and power.

If Leicester could give him the right service, he might play havoc with Arsenal's elderly defence. But can Izet and Savage supply him? And can Kaamara, on the right, overlap?

PREDICTION: A draw.



LIVERPOOL
v
LEEDS UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Matt Dickinson
David James has just completed 200 consecutive games for Liverpool, but will he make it to 201? The arrival of Brad Friedel on Merseyside has placed a large question mark over his career, although it has been weeks, if not months, since he was guilty of one of his infamous blunders.

It is hard to believe that Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, will have gone to such lengths to sign Friedel for £1 million from Columbus Crew, battling through endless bureaucracy to secure the United States international's work permit, if he was not convinced that he is the better man.

Evans will be aware, also, that Friedel must play enough first-team games to justify the permit, otherwise he will be thrown out of the country in 12 months' time.

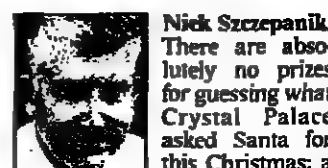
Whether Friedel is ready to be hurried into the fray after just a few days of training and the disruptions of the Christmas programme is uncertain, though, and James may keep his place for a while longer.

He is likely to have plenty of opportunities to prove his worth against a Leeds side who show no signs of ending their remarkable climb to prominence. Five wins and two draws in their past seven games send them into the game today fourth in the Premiership, above their opponents, and if they are earning a reputation for an overly physical approach on the way, George Graham, the manager, will not care less.

True, he did clamp down on those who sinned at Chelsea when they had two players sent off, but his anger will have been because they let the side down rather than for moral outrage.

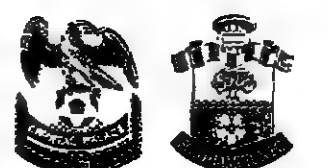
Paul Ince should return for Liverpool after a groin problem, at the expense of Jamie Carragher.

PREDICTION: Leeds to continue their surge with a victory.



CRYSTAL PALACE
v
SOUTHAMPTON
Today, 12.0

Palace's home one) suggests. David Jones, the manager, has decided on his best team — something that Graeme Souness, his predecessor, never quite managed — although that XI may yet be disturbed by the hamstring injury that forced



DERBY COUNTY
v
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

away, so the recent stiffening of their resolve has delighted him. He shares with Alex Ferguson the only unbeaten home record in the Premiership; indeed, only Newcastle have won at Pride Park, in the fourth round of the Coca-Cola Cup last month, courtesy of a goal

Kevin Davies to leave the field at Villa Park last Saturday, when Southampton had the better of a 1-1 draw.

With perfect timing, Egil Ostenstad has returned to fitness after injury. Davies, despite earning a share of the November Carling player-of-the-month award, has been looking a little jaded in any case, according to regular Dell observers, so a rest, even an enforced one, could be useful.

PREDICTION: Not today, Palace. A draw.



ASTON VILLA
v
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 5.0 (sold out)

Gross, having to shrug off insults from those who hardly know him, takes solace in the form and attitude of Ginola. The second coming of Klinsmann will not be until Sunday, against Arsenal, and by then Gross hopes that Sugar, the chairman,

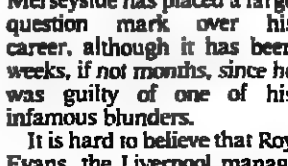


and Platt, the new director of football, will have agreed the need to buy Lee Carsley, of Derby County, or someone similar, to pep up the midfield.

Villa, welcoming Bosphoric home but still without Yorke, need Staunton, Southgate, Draper and Taylor to shake off the bug — or illness could hand Spurs their first win at Villa Park since 1986.

PREDICTION: Villa to win

Collymore charged, page 3



BOLTON WANDERERS
v
BARNSELY
Today, 12.0 (sold out)

brought in Peter Beardsley to lend an experienced hand. Nathan Blake, their leading scorer, still misses far too many chances. Bolton were promoted as champions, playing some marvellous football, and they are clearly not going to surrender



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
v
BLACKBURN ROVERS
Today, 3.0

visiting. At least Peter Atherton returns from suspension. Many pundits still rate Blackburn as unworthy pretenders to Manchester United's Premiership crown but Roy Hodgson has engineered a remarkable transformation at Ewood Park. Al-



though not quite of sown ear-silk proportions, Rovers have lost only twice this season and appear to possess the stickability required to push United, and maybe Chelsea, all the way.

Chris Sutton is back from suspension and should partner Kevin Gallacher. Damien Duff, 18, would usually stand down but such is the form of the boy from Ballyboden, one of Ireland's finest prospects, that Jason Wilcox is likely to make way instead.

PREDICTION: Rovers to roll relentlessly on.



CHELSEA
v
WIMBLEDON
Today, 12.0 (sold out)

entire half? If anyone can play with the same bloody-minded defiance, it is Wimbledon. The abandonment of Wimbledon's home game with Arsenal on Monday because of floodlight failure meant Ceri Hughes did not complete his ben and is

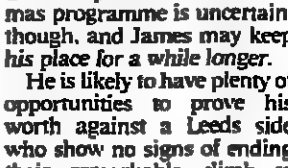


therefore unavailable today. The Dons also have Perry suspended and, with injuries as well, they may be inspired by the spirit of "everything is against us, but we don't care" that has served them so well in the past.

Quite what Chelsea's team will be is anybody's guess. There are injuries that restrict the options available to Ruud Geffert, the manager — no Babayaro, for example, and no Poyet — but that will not stop him from springing a surprise or two.

PREDICTION: Chelsea win.

Collymore charged, page 3



WEST HAM UNITED
v
COVENTRY CITY
Today, 12.0 (sold out)

not in the drop zone after the Boxing Day programme, which marks the start to the second half of the season.

More often than not the club in seventeenth place goes down: witness Middlesbrough, Queens Park Rangers and Crystal Palace.



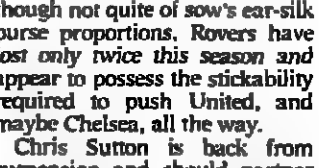
Defeat, though, could leave Coventry in what is traditionally the worst place to be at this time of year, other than bottom. Of the 19 clubs relegated since the Premier League was formed, 11 were



Coventry, though, are master escape artists and called to the cause are George Boateng, a £250,000 buy from Feyenoord, and Violec Moldovan, a £3.2 million Romania international.

Boateng made an impressive debut against Liverpool last weekend but Moldovan will not make his first appearance until the new year. West Ham may give a debut to Bernard Lama, the France goalkeeper, who signed on loan this week.

PREDICTION: United v City. Just as you would expect a Manchester derby to go. A United win.



TOMORROW
Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their Boxing Day match reports

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BOXING DAY FOOTBALL

Gullit must be made to see his future resides with Chelsea

Chelsea players hardly need any more incentives to play well at the moment. With the silverware at stake and the little matter of convincing Ruud Gullit that he does not need to look beyond Stamford Bridge when he considers his long-term future.

There has been a lot of speculation recently about Ruud's plans beyond the summer and the fact that he has yet to sign a new contract with Chelsea. All the players know is that he is here until the end of the season. There are no guarantees beyond that.

Ruud is his own man and he will make the decision that suits him and his family best. Who can blame him for that? I am confident, though, that when the time comes for him to make up his mind, he will see that Chelsea

is where his future happiness lies.

For starters, there is the joy he takes — like so many of us foreigners at Stamford Bridge — from living in London. It is a wonderful city with so much to explore and enjoy, and one of the biggest advantages for such a revered, and instantly recognisable, figure like Ruud is that you don't get pestered.

Sure, people recognise you walking down the street, but they rarely hassle you and it is such a big place that it is easy to keep your head down. Much more so, say, than somewhere like Milan.

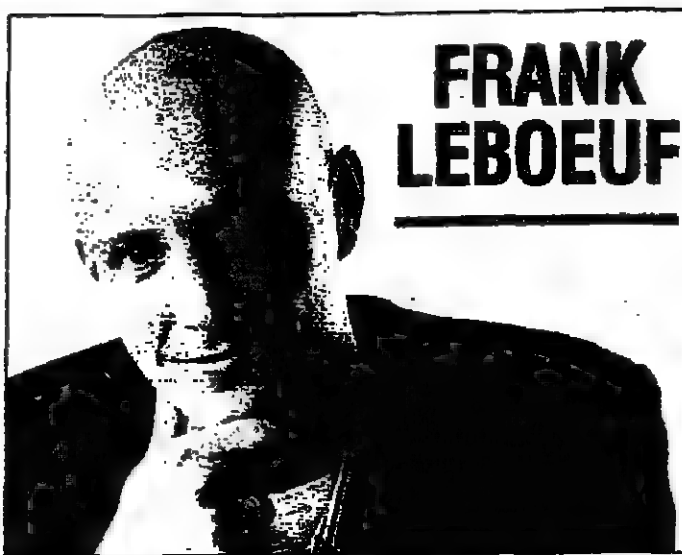
The other reason for Ruud to stay here is the football. He is such a perfectionist when it comes to the job and, while everything is going so well for us at the moment with a Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final, and the FA Cup, Coca-Cola Cup

and Premiership to fight for, he is the type who is always striving for improvement.

I honestly believe that, on our day, Chelsea can play the best football in the country but in Ruud's eyes, the job is only half done until we win the championship. That is the standard he insists is shared by the players.

It would be so very, very sad if Ruud decided to leave Chelsea because he is a man, and a manager, you cannot help but respect, a football legend. It was encouraging to hear him talk recently, though, of long-term plans for the club and I believe he can still see so much potential to explore here, on and off the pitch where the new stand is taking shape.

Yes, things are going very well for us all at Stamford Bridge, but hopefully there is much more to



FRANK
LEBOEUF

come. I am confident Ruud will be there when it happens.

World-class talent
West Ham fans probably do not realise it yet, but their club has just signed a player of world-class talent for nothing. I am talking about Bernard Lama, an old friend of mind and a colleague in the France team.

As a goalkeeper, Bernard is up there with the best and I believe he can be involved in the World Cup. Fabien Barthez, who plays for AS Monaco, is at present the first choice, but I know Aimé Jacquet,

the coach, rates Bernard very highly and hopefully this move to London will push his career back in the right direction.

It has been widely publicised that Bernard was banned for testing positive for cannabis, something that caused him much trouble in France, where he played for Paris Saint-Germain. He could have stayed there, but decided it would be better to have a clean start elsewhere after all the fuss.

Let me make it absolutely clear straightaway that I do not approve of drugs and, personally, would not want to go anywhere near

them. We all know their potentially harmful effects.

I find it amazing, though, that a footballer, or any sportsman, should be banned for smoking a drug that no one in their right mind would regard as performance enhancing. Of course, a public must expect a fine if they are caught with drugs, because that is what the law dictates.

It seems so incredibly harsh, though, that it should lead to a player being suspended for weeks or months. It does not happen if they are found guilty of some other offence unrelated to the sport and, I repeat, no one would smoke a joint in the hope of playing better football. It is not cheating, so why should his career be punished?

It was still a silly mistake by Bernard and one he regrets. Hopefully, now, though, he will be able to concentrate on his career because he is a top-class player and a good team man.

It is not often that anyone of his ability becomes available. He has signed until the end of the season and this could be a big year for him with the World Cup coming up. I am confident West Ham have got themselves a bargain.

Fascinating signing
Another foreigner who has just joined we exiles in England — in

case you had not noticed! — is Jürgen Kinsmann and it has been fascinating to see the effect that he has already had at Tottenham Hotspur, where morale is now sky-high.

I played against Jürgen a couple of times when I was at Sturbridge and he was at Monaco so I know first-hand just how strong he is. I don't remember him diving, although that would be because he never had the chance — I made sure I always won the ball!

Although he is 33, he is a man who has always looked after his body — so I have no doubts that he can make a huge impact on the Premiership again. We do not play Spurs again until April, so I have plenty of time in which to learn his moves.

It will be interesting to see how Christian Gross fits him into the team because most people would have agreed that it was in defence that Tottenham really needed to sign new players.

I did not get much of a chance to speak to Jürgen when we were in France but it might be good to have a chat now. I know he takes a keen interest in the environment and travel and they are both topics close to my own heart. It is that curiosity and love of exploration that has brought us both to England. The same could be said of Ruud and Bernard. It is a joy for us all to be here.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF.	HOME					AWAY					LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
				W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	19	43	+32	8	1	0	28	4	5	3	2	17	9	8-1-1	W5
2. BLACKBURN ROVERS (2)	19	39	+17	7	2	1	23	10	4	4	1	13	9	7-2-1	W3
3. CHELSEA (3)	19	38	+26	6	1	1	16	6	6	1	4	29	13	7-1-2	W1
4. LEEDS UTD (4)	19	34	+9	5	2	3	15	11	5	2	2	13	8	6-3-1	W1
5. LIVERPOOL (6)	18	31	+14	6	0	3	20	9	3	4	2	11	8	6-1-3	W2
6. ARSENAL (5)	18	30	+11	5	2	2	19	7	3	4	2	13	14	3-3-4	L1
7. DERBY COUNTY (7)	19	29	+6	6	3	0	19	5	2	2	6	14	22	3-4-3	D3
8. LEICESTER CITY (8)	19	27	+5	3	5	3	12	10	4	1	3	11	8	2-3-5	L2
9. NEWCASTLE UTD (9)	18	26	-2	5	3	3	12	11	2	2	3	8	11	2-5-3	L1
10. WEST HAM UTD (10)	19	25	-6	7	0	1	17	6	1	1	9	8	25	4-0-6	L1
11. WIMBLEDON (11)	18	23	-2	3	2	5	11	14	3	3	2	8	7	4-2-4	D1
12. ASTON VILLA (12)	19	22	-5	4	2	3	12	13	2	2	6	8	12	3-3-4	D1
13. CRYSTAL PALACE (15)	19	21	-8	0	3	5	5	14	5	3	3	12	11	2-4-4	D1
14. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (13)	19	21	-12	5	1	4	18	17	1	2	6	13	26	5-0-5	L2
15. SOUTHAMPTON (17)	19	20	-6	5	1	4	17	14	1	1	7	6	15	5-1-4	D1
16. COVENTRY CITY (14)	19	20	-8	3	6	1	14	10	1	2	6	3	15	2-3-5	L1
17. BOLTON WANDERERS (16)	19	20	-13	3	5	1	8	6	1	3	6	8	23	3-3-4	L1
18. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (18)	19	19	-15	4	2	4	11	14	1	2	6	6	18	3-0-7	W1
19. EVERTON (19)	19	17	-10	3	2	4	11	13	1	3	6	6	14	2-3-5	W1
20. BARNLEY (20)	19	14	-33	2	2	5	10	20	2	0	8	7	30	2-2-6	L1

ATTACK		GOALS SCORED		AVERAGE	
1. Chelsea	45	2.37			
2. Manchester Utd	45	2.37			
3. Blackburn	36	1.89			
4. Arsenal	32	1.78			
5. Derby	33	1.74			
6. Liverpool	31	1.72			
7. Sheffield Wed	31	1.63			
8. Leeds	28	1.47			
9. West Ham	25	1.32			
10. Leicester	23	1.21			
11. Southampton	23	1.21			
12. Newcastle	20	1.11			
13. Wimbledon	19	1.06			
14. Aston Villa	20	1.05			
15. Barnsley	17	0.89			
16. Coventry	17	0.89			
17. Crystal Palace	17	0.89			
18. Everton	17	0.89			
19. Tottenham	17	0.89			
20. Bolton	16	0.84			

SCORING TRENDS		GOALS PER HALF		1st		2nd	
1. Arsenal	20	12					
2. Aston Villa	7	13					
3. Barnsley	9	6					
4. Blackburn	25	13					
5. Bolton	6	10					
6. Chelsea	18	27					
7. Coventry	7	10					
8. Crystal Palace	9	8					
9. Derby	14	19					
10. Everton	6	11					
11. Leeds Utd	15	13					
12. Leicester	8	15					
13. Liverpool	8	23					
14. Manchester Utd	17	28					
15. Newcastle	10	10					
16. Sheffield Wed	14	17					
17. Southampton	9	18					
18. Tottenham	10	18					
19. West Ham	7	18					
20. Wimbledon	6	13					

SCORERS		GOALS	
1. Balano (Derby)	11		
2. Cole (Manchester Utd)	11		
3. Harrison (West Ham)	11		
4. Sutton (Blackburn)	10		
5. Wright (Arsenal)	10		
6. G. Palmer (Blackburn)	9		
7. Wallace (Leeds)	9		
8. Blake (Bolton)	7		
9. Carbone (Sheffield Wed)	7		
10. Davies (Southampton)	7		
11. Davies (Sheffield Wed)	7		
12. Dublin (Coventry)	7		
13. Fowler (Liverpool)	7		
14. Sheringham (Manchester Utd)	7		
15. Zola (Chelsea)	7		
16. Berkevic (West Ham)	6		
17. Huckerby (Coventry)	6		
18. McManaman (Liverpool)	6		
19. Redfearn (Barnsley)	6		
20. Speed (Everton)	6		
21. Wanchop (Derby)	6		

CAUTIONS		CARDS ISSUED		Yellow		Red	
1. Leeds Utd	47						
2. Everton	42						
3. Arsenal	42						
4. Coventry	40						
5. Bolton	37						
6. C. Palmer	39						
7. Derby	40						
8. Chelsea	36						
9. West Ham	36						
10. Blackburn	33						
11. Newcastle	32						
12. Sheffield Wed	30						
13. Manchester Utd*	31						
14. Barnsley	30						
15. Liverpool	28						
16. Tottenham	27						
17. Southampton	28						
18. Leicester	24						
19. Wimbledon	25						
20. Aston Villa	20						

REFEREES		CARDS ISSUED		Yellow		Red	
1. G. Willard	10						
2. M. Reed	8						
3. G. Poll	11						
4. P. Dunn	12						
5. U. Hearn	11						
6. G. Barber	10						
7. P. Alcock	10						
8. J. Winter	11						
9. D. Ellery	10						
10. S. Dunn	8						
11. P. Jones	9						
12. M. Bodenham	9						
13. A. White	11						
14. G. Ashby	10						
15. M. Riley	10						
16. K. Burge	9						
17. N. Barry	10						
18. D. Gallagher	10						
19. S. Lodge	10						

DEFENCE		GOALS CONCEDED		AVERAGE	
1. Manchester Utd	13	0.68			
2. Liverpool	17	0.94			
3. Leicester	18	0.95			
4. Blackburn	19	1.00			
5. Chelsea	19	1.00			
6. Leeds	19	1.00			
7. Arsenal	21	1.17			
8. Wimbledon	21	1.17			
9. Newcastle	22	1.22			
10. Aston Villa	25	1.32			
11. Coventry	25	1.32			
12. Crystal Palace	25	1.32			
13. Derby	27	1.42			
14. Everton	27	1.42			
15. Bolton	29	1.53			
16. Southampton	29	1.53			
17. West Ham	31	1.63			
18. Tottenham	32	1.68			
19. Sheffield Wed	43	2.26			
20. Barnsley	50	2.63			

CLEAN SHEETS		CLEAN SHEETS		Failed to score	
1. Arsenal	7				
2. Aston Villa	5				
3. Barnsley	3				
4. Blackburn	8				
5. Bolton	7				
6. Chelsea	8				
7. Coventry	6				
8. Crystal Palace	6				
9. Derby	6				
10. Everton	6				
11. Leeds Utd	7				
12. Leicester	7				
13. Liverpool	7				
14. Manchester Utd	11				
15. Newcastle	5				
16. Sheffield Wed	4				
17. Southampton	3				
18. Tottenham	6				
19. West Ham	2				
20. Wimbledon	4				

BOXING DAY RECORDS		1992-3	1993-4
Arsenal	D (0-0)	W (4-0)*	W (1-0)
Aston Villa	L (0-3)	L (0-1)	L (0-1)
Barnsley	L (2-4)	L (0-1)	L (0-1)
Blackburn	W (3-1)	W (2-1)	W (2-1)
Bolton	D (1-1)	L (0-1)	L (0-1)
Chelsea	W (3-0)	W (3-0)	W (3-0)
Coventry	W (2-0)	W (2-0)	W (2-0)
Crystal Palace	L (1-2)	L (1-2)	L (1-2)
Derby	D (2-2)	D (2-2)	D (2-2)
Everton	L (1-3)	L (1-3)	L (1-3)
Leeds Utd	—	—	—
Leicester	—	—	—
Liverpool	—	—	—
Manchester Utd	D (3-3)	D (3-3)	D (3-3)
Newcastle	W (2-1)	W (2-1)	W (2-1)
Sheffield Wed	D (1-1)	D (1-1)	D (1-1)
Southampton	D (0-0)	D (0-0)	D (0-0)
Tottenham	L (0-2)	L (0-2)	L (0-2)
West Ham	L (1-2)	L (1-2)	L (1-2)
Wimbledon	D (2-2)	D (2-2)	D (2-2)

Which bowler known as 'Chicken George' completed a hat-trick against England?

QUIZ

1. Which cyclist, who won the Tour de France five times, announced his retirement?
2. Which weightlifter, who won a record three Olympic titles, also retired?
3. How many matches in the one-day cricket series against England did Zimbabwe win?
4. Which bowler, known as "Chicken George", took a hat-trick in the third one-day match between England and Zimbabwe?
5. Which Briton, who was banned for four years for taking anabolic steroids, returned to top-class athletics by beating Colin Jackson in a 60-metre sprint in Birmingham?
6. Of whom was it said: "Whoever follows will not have the same charisma and popularity. There is no one in Europe who could follow him?"
7. Who said: "I am doing what is best for me, as he left his job as chief executive of a British sports body?"
8. Whose rugby union career was interrupted by a kidney disorder?
9. When Martina Hingis won the Australian Open, aged 16 years and three months, she became the youngest tennis player to win a grand-slam singles title since which British player?

NOVEMBER

10. Who knocked Manchester United out of the FA Cup?
11. What was the job of Chris Doig immediately before he became the chief executive of New Zealand Cricket Inc?
12. Which heavyweight boxer said after losing a world title bout: "Drugs and alcohol are a disease. I can't control the disease. I speak to my drugs counsellor daily?"
13. Who scored the only goal in the England v Italy World Cup qualifying match at Wembley?
14. In which sport did a South Africa national coach resign after allegedly making racist remarks?
15. Which club did Roy Hodgson leave to become manager of Blackburn Rovers?
16. What fate befell Alberto Tomba when he was defending his giant slalom title at the world championships in Sestriere?
17. Where did Tomba finish in the slalom?

DECEMBER

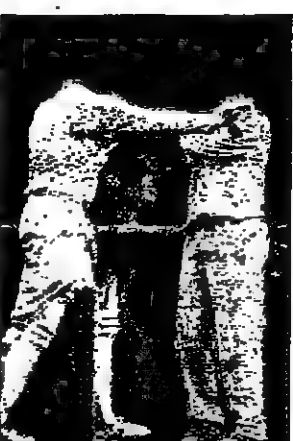
18. Who won the five nations' international between England and France at Twickenham?
19. Which jockey, winner of 18 Classics, announced his retirement from racing?
20. Which triple jumper, who was only included in the Great Britain team when she threatened legal action against her original omission, won a silver medal in the world indoor championships in Paris?
21. Which two FA Cup Premiership footballers were asked by Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, to make a public reconciliation after an on-field clash?
22. Oxford and Cambridge



universities celebrated their centenary boxing match in 1997. In the early days, the annual fixture consisted of contests in boxing and which other sport?

COMPILATION

23. Which horse won the Cheltenham Gold Cup?
24. In the five nations' championship, which two countries conceded more points than ever before?
25. Which university won the 143rd Boat Race?



A. Which cricketers went bat in a NatWest Trophy semi-final?

bers of the clergy (including three women) and 375 housewives (including 364 women)?

The Times presents today the traditional festive challenge — the Quiz of the Sporting Year.

Test your knowledge on the milestones and misfortunes that made 1997 such a year to remember and you may be the winner of a methuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne. The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn — or if necessary the entrant with the most correct answers drawn — will receive the champagne, worth £250. The six runners-up will receive Visions of Football, a celebration of the work of the Allsport photographic agency. Visions of Football is published by Andre Deutsch at £14.99. Closing date is Friday, January 9, 1998

Compiled by John Goodbody

irreplaceable and the way he played will last for as long as the game of cricket itself."

MAY

34. Which American basketball player wrote in his autobiography that he wanted to change his name to "Orgasm"?
35. Who won the world snooker championship?
36. What species of fish was refused as a record after being caught in an Essex pond, weighing 99lb and being 7ft in length, unless it could be proved that the lake was stocked legally?
37. How many tries were scored in the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham?
38. Which make of car won the Monaco Grand Prix for the first time since 1981?
39. Which former Olympic athletics finalist helped Chelsea to prepare for the FA Cup Final?
40. Which jockey was banned for four weeks for taking an amphetamine?
41. Which American female runner was found to have been allowed to compete in the 1996 Olympics despite having allegedly failed a drugs test?
42. Who became the youngest England cricketer for 48 years?

JUNE

43. Over what distance did Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson meet in a race to decide which athlete was the faster sprinter?
44. Which Shropshire and former Warwickshire all-rounder was banned from professional cricket for 22 months for taking cocaine?
45. Who wrote on the front of her T-shirt "Power is nothing" and on the back the words "Without control" after causing an upset in the French Open tennis championships?
46. Which England bowler took five wickets as Australia were bowled out for 118 on the opening day of the first Test at Edgbaston?
47. Which England batsman made 207 in the first Test?
48. Who won the men's singles title at the French Open tennis championships?
49. Which horse won the Derby?
50. Who became the first Briton to receive a peerage for his services to sport?



B. Mike Tyson puts the bite on Evander Holyfield, but in which round was he disqualified?

JULY

51. In which round of the men's singles at Wimbledon did Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski lose?
52. Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde won the men's doubles again at Wimbledon. How many consecutive years have the pair won the title?
53. To which club did Juninho move from Middlesbrough?
54. Who won the third rugby union international between the British Isles and South Africa?

55. The thirtieth anniversary of the death of which British cyclist on the Tour de France was commemorated on July 17?
56. Who finished sixth in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, so securing his first points of the Formula One season?
57. Which county won the Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's?
58. Who was controversially not picked for the individual 400 metres in Britain's team for the world athletics championships?
59. Which former winner had

a first round of 92.21 over par, before withdrawing from the Open golf championship?

AUGUST

61. How many gold medals did Britain win at the world athletics championships in Athens?
62. Which Manchester United player had his name misspelt on his shirt for the Charity Shield at Wembley?
63. Who, in Premiership foot-



ment in France, targeted by a spectator shining a laser beam in his eyes?

84. Who was the Cuban pitcher who won the Most Valuable Player award in baseball's World Series?
85. How many years after the club was formed did Florida Marlins win the World Series?

SEPTEMBER

69. Which Spanish golfer was controversially excluded from the Europe Ryder Cup team when he refused to confirm his fitness?
70. Which country initially decided to continue staging a World Cup qualifying game on the day of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales?
71. Which city was awarded the 2004 Olympic Games?
72. Which county won the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's?
73. Who beat Greg Rusedski in the men's singles final at the US Open?
74. Who remains the last Briton to win a grand-slam men's singles title?
75. Who was booed before the kick-off between England and Moldova at Wembley after predicting that England would not win the World Cup?
76. Which British boxer said about his return to his ring under a new promoter: "In the past, I always wanted to please myself. But now I'm going to please the fans. To do that I'm prepared to fight the best in the world."
77. Who won the Ryder Cup?

OCTOBER

78. Which British woman won the Chicago Marathon for the second successive year?
79. Which famous British sportsman was found to be suffering from diabetes at the age of 35?
80. Which Test cricketer was charged with refusing to give a urine sample for a drugs test?
81. Which English club had to play the away leg of a European competition in Norway in heavy snow?
82. Who won the European Grand Prix in Jerez when Jacques Villeneuve took the Formula One world drivers' championship?
83. In which sport was an Australian player, taking part in an international tourna-

ment in France, targeted by a spectator shining a laser beam in his eyes?

NOVEMBER

86. In which sport did a match between Marie Davies and Marie Leefe make history?
87. Who was sacked as manager of Sheffield Wednesday?
88. Which club knocked Liverpool out of the UEFA Cup?
89. Who scored a hat-trick for Manchester United against Feyenoord in Rotterdam in the European Cup Champions' League?
90. Which former international marathon runner represented Britain in a world powerlifting championship?
91. Who accepted an invitation to become the honorary patron of France Cricket, the governing body in that country?
92. In which round did Evander Holyfield stop Michael Moorer for the WBA and IBF heavyweight titles?
93. Which town simultaneously had football clubs whose men's team were bottom of the Nationwide League and top of the Women's Premier League?
94. Which England rugby union player stood nose-to-nose with Norman Hewitt during the haka before the match against the All Blacks at Old Trafford?

DECEMBER

95. Which country will England play in their first game in the 1998 World Cup finals in France?



C. Which goalkeeper blamed his failings on an addiction to video games?

96. In which sport did New Zealand beat England 47-35?
97. Which boxer returned to the ring at the age of 38 and outpointed Vinny Pazienza, of the United States, in a super-middleweight bout?
98. Which former Leeds United and Scotland international footballer died this month?
99. Cambridge won the University rugby union match. How many of this annual fixture have they now won in succession?
100. Which family threatened to pull out of British horse racing because of the sport's financial situation?

HOW TO ENTER THE QUIZ OF THE SPORTING YEAR

FILL IN your answers on the entry form and send it, with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to: Quiz of the Sporting Year, Sports Department, The Times, 1, Pall Mall, London W1A 3AA. To arrive by Friday January 9, 1998. The prize will go to the sender of the first all-correct entry — or, if necessary, the entrant with the most correct answers — drawn from those received by the closing date. The Sports Editor's decision is final and correspondence will not be entered into. The winners and solutions will be published on Tuesday, January 13, 1998. The competition is not open to employees of News International, their relatives or agents.

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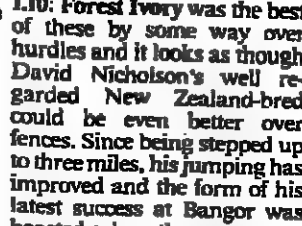
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EMPTON PARK
N-LINE RACECARD

Lake Kariba to sink Kadastrof

KEMPTON PARK CHANNEL 4



TODAY'S RACING ON TELEVISION

1.10: Forest Ivory was the best of these by some way over hurdles and it looks as though David Nicholson's well-regarded New Zealand-bred could be even better over fences. Since being stepped up to three miles, his jumping has improved and the form of his latest success at Bangor was boosted when the runner-up, Cash Flow, beat Spring Gale at Doncaster. Fiddling The Facts made a successful debut over fences at Lingfield when defeating Ottawa (who previously beat Ellery at Worcester).

Nicholson: fine chance

ter) and she should frank the form on 7th worse terms. The biggest danger could be Bengers Moor, winner of three point-to-points, who made an encouraging chasing debut behind Wise King at Sandown and is entitled to improve for the run.

1.45: Fleet Spring, a winner on the Flat last season and beaten only three lengths in the Cambridgehire, is sure to attract support, having won here over course and distance. Although not disgraced on soft ground on his hurdling debut, the best performances have been achieved on a faster

surface. With a strong pace likely to be set by the front-running Noble Colours, this could be too much of a stamina test. Kingsfold Pet, sharper for a run over fences behind Kadastrof, is well handicapped on his form of two years ago and is a confirmed mudlark. The Lady Herries-trained Tibetan has obvious claims after completing a double at Cheltenham when getting the better of Barna Boy. That form should give the in-form Nicky Henderson a clue as to the chances of Serenus, who won comfortably at Huntingdon on his seasonal reappearance despite falling backward. Gelded since last season, he is open to further improvement.

2.20: see facing page

2.55: With Zabadi proving a shade disappointing, this looks to be a match between Kadastrof and Lake Kariba. Both love the mud, but preference is for Lake Kariba, who had little more than a schooling session when winning at Doncaster last Saturday. The Paul Nicholls-trained runner has been a few kilos overweight so should be spot on here. Kadastrof had to work quite hard to beat Charming Girl on ground which was arguably too lively at Ludlow last time and is better judged on his course and distance success here in November.

RICHARD EVANS

Sparky Gayle seeks return to form

By CHRIS McGRATH

APPROACHING half past two this afternoon, bookmakers will be busy revising their Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup prices - depending on the valour, or otherwise, with which Sney Bay and the like have just acquitted themselves in the Pertemps King George VI Chase. They would do well, however, not to be distracted from proceedings also underway at Wetherby, where Sparky Gayle carries top weight in the Rowland Meyrick Chase.

Sparky Gayle's impressive success in the Calcutti Chase last March not only crowned an exemplary first season over fences, in which he won all six races. For many, it also foreshadowed his return to the Festival in the spring, for the Gold Cup itself.

Such aspirations made him look a compelling proposition when he reappeared last month, carrying just 10st 2lb in the Murphy's Gold Cup. While hindsight now permits one to think better of his fourth to Senior El Beruani who has since confirmed himself greatly improved - the fact is that he no longer resembled a Gold Cup horse on his return to the Scottish borders.

In common with many of his stablemates in Lockerbie, however, Sparky Gayle proved to be suffering from an infection. Colin Parker, his trainer, is now optimistic that he can resume what had previously been a sustained record of progress. "He wasn't

right that day," he said. "Most of mine have been having problems, but the blood tests are okay and he has been working well enough."

Sparky Gayle has yet to have his stamina tested at today's distance, which he obviously needs to resist the odds to develop into a Gold Cup horse. "I think he'll get the trip," Parker said. "But now it's a long time again since he has run. And he has to give a lot of weight away."

Kempton and Wetherby apart, the Boxing Day programme is more about quantity than quality. Nonetheless, provincial courses thrive on days like this, when rural Britain clears its head in the raw outdoors - and tries to retrieve Christmas expenses.

With horseboxes heading to all points of the compass, journeyman jockeys pick up rides for top trainers, while local yards focus on their favourite courses. Huntingdon regulars, for instance, will be keeping an eye on Occold and Ernest Williams, from Geoff Hubbard's stable.



Sparky Gayle hopes to make up for his disappointing Cheltenham run at Wetherby today

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
1.00 For Cathal. 1.30 Dark Oak. 2.00 Chipped Out.
2.30 Kidwenny Castle. 3.00 Brancher. 3.30 Diamond Beach.

GOING: SOFT

1.00 RED OXON NOVICES HURDLE (22.35; 3m 110yds) (7 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

1.30 KEN BRIGHT STILL GOING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS HANDICAP CHASE (23.73; 3m 110yds) (11 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

2.00 DURHAM HNS LTD. NOVICES CHASE (23.10; 3m 110yds) (13 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

2.30 BENT ROLL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (23.48; 2m 110yds) (9 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

3.00 URBAN HALL SIENNA STUO HANDICAP HURDLE (22.73; 2m 110yds) (12 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

3.30 HALLGARTH MAJOR HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (22.58; 2m 110yds) (8 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

THUNDERER
1.25 Forzeal. 1.25 Common Sound. 2.00 Hoveford. 2.35 Naughty Future. 3.10 Master Bepard. 3.40 Roiset.

GOING: SOFT

1.25 POINT N BRANDY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21.38; 2m 110yds) (10 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

1.25 GOOSE NOVICES CHASE (22.75; 2m 110yds) (9 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

WETHERBY

THUNDERER
1.245 Joe Shaw. 1.15 Ham N Eggs. 1.50 Kartel. 2.25 Colours in Chief. 2.55 Chief Minister. 3.25 Foundry Lane.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

1.245 BOXING DAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (23.54; 2m 110yds) (13 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

1.15 BOURNEHURST NOVICES CHASE (24.47; 2m 110yds) (8 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

1.50 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (23.21; 2m 110yds) (13 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

2.25 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (23.50; 3m 110yds) (5 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

2.55 SUPERMASTERS HANDICAP CHASE (27.22; 4m 110yds) (6 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

3.25 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (23.33; 2m 110yds) (17 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

2.00 HOUNS OF AYR WINTER SALE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (22.31; 2m 110yds) (7 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

2.35 ALADDIN AT THE BAIETY HANDICAP CHASE (23.47; 2m 110yds) (8 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

3.10 TEXTILE WORLD WINTER SALE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (22.84; 2m 110yds) (9 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

WINCANTON

THUNDERER
12.50 Just Jasmine. 1.20 Robins Pnd. 1.50 Grier. 2.30 None Stirred. 3.00 Jultara. 3.30 Bet Whitelire.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

12.50 FATHER CHRISTMAS MARES ONLY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (22.50; 2m 110yds) (12 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

1.20 HARRY DUFOUSE HANDICAP CHASE (22.50; 2m 110yds) (8 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

1.55 MID SEASON CHASE (27.08; 2m 110yds) (7 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER
12.50 Oakbury. 1.00 Bassenhalley. 1.35 Cats Run. 2.30 Colour Court. 2.35 Dana Point. 3.05 Non Vintage. 3.35 Lord Haste.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.50 NISLETOE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21.50; 2m 110yds) (9 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

1.00 BRUCE & JOE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (23.43; 3m 110yds) (10 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

1.35 CLUBSTON LINCOLNSHIRE NATIONAL (Handicap chase, 29.32; 4m 110yds) (7 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

2.05 SANDILANDS GOLFING HOLIDAYS MAIDEN HURDLE (22.54; 2m 110yds) (13 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
1.15 Double-O. 1.40 Other Cluck. 2.15 Touchanora. 2.45 Italian Symphony. 3.15 Democritus. 3.50 Flex. 4.20 Soldier Cove. 4.50 Mercury.

GOING: STANDARD

1.15 CHRIS MASSEYS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HANDICAP (Div 1 £2,401; 8) (8 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

1.40 BREAD SAUCE MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; £3,505; 1m 100yds) (6 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

2.15 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,294; 6) (9 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

2.45 CHRIS MASSEYS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HANDICAP (Div 1 £2,388; 6) (8 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

2.30 WINCANTON GOLD CARD HANDICAP

THUNDERER
1.20 Just Jasmine. 1.20 Robins Pnd. 1.50 Grier. 2.30 None Stirred. 3.00 Jultara. 3.30 Bet Whitelire.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

2.30 LORD STALBRIDGE MEMORIAL GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (27.07; 3m 110yds) (7 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

3.30 PARKERS CATERERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (22.44; 2m 110yds) (14 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

2.35 ROSELAND GROUP KILWININGTON HANDICAP

THUNDERER
1.245 Joe Shaw. 1.15 Ham N Eggs. 1.50 Kartel. 2.25 Colours in Chief. 2.55 Chief Minister. 3.25 Foundry Lane.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

2.35 DUCKWORTH FREELANDER NOVICES CHASE (23.84; 2m 110yds) (14 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
3.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
4.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
5.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
6.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
7.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10

3.35 RON LANE BIRTHDAY NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (21.91; 2m 110yds) (14 runners)
1.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (10.0) M. S. Smith 11-10
2.100 BIRKENHEAD 10 (

RUGBY UNION

Pace-setting Saracens let the good times roll

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE has been a constant refrain running round Watford this season as, one by one, Saracens have picked off their potential rivals in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division: champions, the refrain goes, are not won around Christmas. Yet it is infinitely more comfortable to perch on the top of the pile than to be craning one's neck upwards all the time.

Victory for Saracens against Leicester today would end a year of continual growth. It would provide the club with the perfect launching pad for the development schemes that they have in store for the Watford community, among whom they came to live in August.

Not that Saracens will take victory at Vicarage Road for granted. It took them 32 years of trying before they secured their first win over Leicester, although they have won the past two league games played in London at respectively, Southgate and Enfield.

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Saracens	7	7	0	0	188	103	14
Newcastle	6	6	0	0	180	108	12
Leicester	6	4	0	2	189	113	8
Richmond	6	4	0	2	187	109	8
Hartpury	6	3	0	3	187	109	8
Salisbury	7	5	0	2	222	201	6
Northampton	7	3	0	4	153	141	4
Bath	8	3	0	5	178	189	6
Gloucester	8	2	0	6	147	149	4
Worcestershire	8	1	0	7	106	163	2
London Irish	8	1	0	7	90	190	2
Bristol	7	1	0	6	95	252	2

Yet they will not be short of confidence: their unbeaten seven-match Premiership run includes victories at two uncomfortable away venues, Sale and Northampton, as well as the notable win at Loftus Road which set Waspes, the 1997 champions, on their giddy downward spiral. Just as significant was the utter dismissal of Bath in their last home match, which was an indication of the standards they now expect of themselves.

"The club has changed dramatically and the attitude of the players has changed too," Tony Diprose, the Saracens captain, said. Diprose has seen the bad times, in the second division at Southgate, and he has been an integral part of the rise and rise of Saracens, fuelled

since 1995 by Nigel Wray's money, which has taken them to the top of the first division. It is an ascent which has helped Diprose himself to international honours at No.8, including games this autumn against Australia and New Zealand.

That, in turn, has heightened his own ambition and confidence. "I came back from those four weeks with England believing in my ability to play at that level and not only that, to be a force at that level," Diprose said. "I want more of it."

He is a key member of the influential middle five — back row and half backs — who direct operations on the field at Watford, though both Diprose and Mark Evans, the director of rugby, acknowledge the influence brought to bear by Francois Pienaar in his coaching role as well as his formidable skills at flank forward.

"You can't under-sell the influence Francois has had," Evans said. "He sets standards, he has drawn on his experience and we have learnt from it."

At full strength, Saracens can field three England internationals — Diprose, Richard Hill (absent today with an injury) and Kyran Bracken — one South Africa cap in Pienaar and Australia's Michael Lynagh in those five key positions. It is a battery of talent and experience unmatched in the Premiership: who else, after all, can field two World Cup-winners in that area, never mind the skills of the world's most-capped player, Philippe Sella, further out at centre.

"Michael is playing at a different level to last year, when he spent so much time recovering from a shoulder injury," Diprose said. "He controls a lot of our play and I have picked up a great deal from his captaincy experience."

"It's an easy job, captaincy, when you are winning but a lot of the work is done beforehand, in training, so that when the time for decisions arrives on the field, we're all on the same wavelength anyway."

The club has worked hard on fitness, too, under the direction of Mike Yates whose son, Matthew, is an international 1,500 metres runner. "Francois has told Mike that



Since his arrival last year, Pienaar has been setting the standards at Saracens on and off the field

he wants us to be the fittest team in the country," Diprose said, "and we're still working on it. It's taken the team a while to come together, which is not surprising with all the newcomers there have been."

"Last season we put together some really good performances on a one-off basis, but to get the consistency you need has taken longer. But winning has become a contagious habit; I've been down the bottom end of the league and it's not much fun."

Saracens have reached their present eminence, moreover, with England-qualified talent in key positions: not only are Diprose and Bracken part of the side's spine, they have Greg Borteman at

hooker and Matt Singer at full back. Behind Borteman, an England replacement against Wales in 1996, is George Chuter, only 21 and developing fast since his move from Old Mid-Whitgiftians, while the midfield includes one of the most underrated of English players, Steve Ravenscroft.

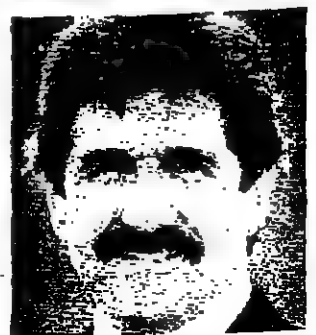
Yet there are demanding games to come, not least the visits to Newcastle and Bath which must be made. That is for the new year; this afternoon Leicester bring with them, for the first time in their history, a forward pack made up completely of internationals, six of them English and reinforced by Fritz van Heerden (South Africa) and Eric Miller (Ireland).

Joel Stranksy, their South Africa fly half, has recovered more quickly than expected from the rib injury he sustained against Richmond ten days ago and joins forces at half back with Waisale Seruvi but Will Greenwood, the England centre, will be absent. He has damaged a shoulder, which gives James Overend the chance to start a Premiership game for the first time this season.

Overend, 23, has suffered from a succession of shoulder injuries since joining Leicester two years ago yet, in his 14 appearances for the club, he has yet to finish on the losing side. That is a record he and his colleagues would be happy to see sustained today.

Protective kit may create more danger

GERALD DAVIES



The injury to Gwyn Jones, the Wales captain and Cardiff flanker, and his subsequent retirement from rugby has turned our rugby grounds into places of ruinous melancholy. That it takes so severe an injury to remind us that rugby is a perilous game, is a sad comment on how easily we tend to forget. So imperfect a game, where risk and the scent of danger forms no small fraction of its attraction, requires eternal vigilance and care.

Professional sport, believing that toughness of mind and a hard competitive edge are essential virtues and preferring to avoid a benign mood during good times, chases the "entertainment dollar" as if nothing else matters. Rugby still needs the sensitive touch, now more than ever. Amateurism, for all its weaknesses, worked because it relied on trust and benevolence. Because it was a game and not a business, that it was essentially for the player and not for the spectator, the focus was less on pleasing other people, less on spurring on the game for the sake of entertainment.

Rugby union should attempt to salvage some of that old-time gentleman's way of conducting its affairs. This, of course, was much derided in its time. The attitude will forever be encapsulated in Will Carling's immortal if unfortunate phrase about the 57 varieties that made up the ruling body at Twickenham.

We were left with a vision of a blazered bunch of buffoons. That they were nothing of the sort should not get in the way of the joke. But they had their hearts in the right place.

Who is to say that rugby, worldwide, may be any better under a new breed of official. The drift is not encouraging at the moment.

Let us begin by lodging a complaint about the increased use of protective clothing. For, while this kit is seen as necessary to prevent too many injuries, it may inadvertently encourage greater danger.

The so-called hard hits are nowadays commonplace. The shoulder padding is deemed therefore to be essential. Such protection, it is argued, can no longer be avoided.

The other side of the coin is that increased protection gives licence for the hits to the body to become harder and more frequent. Hitherto, the game's ra-

ing authorities have eschewed the use of thigh padding but it is only a matter of time that, with the advantage shoulder padding gives the tackler, so must the tackled player be compensated with similar protection. Thigh padding will soon be used.

That being the case, since the head gets to be in close proximity to the physical confrontation, this most sensitive of areas will inevitably need protection, too. So that, of the couple of examples of headgear we see at any one fixture, we shall have to expect every player to wear it soon.

Thus, the accepted parameters within which the game has hitherto been played are modified. But in so doing, the attitudes and the levels of tolerance are irrevocably changed. A basic principle has been sacrificed. A tackle could only be as hard as the tolerance of the hurt flesh against flesh. With body protection, this ceases to be the case.

This is the thin edge of the wedge. To begin with, no padding was allowed. Later, protective clothing could be worn when a player was injured. This progressed to allow a player to wear padding of a certain type if it conformed to certain guidelines of softness.

It transpires that this season it is permissible to wear shoulder pads. It is but a short step to allow harder and tougher material of the kind American footballers wear. When, one wonders, will helmets arrive on the scene?

What motivates the changes? Is it truly for the protection of players or is it the case that, by agreeing such protection, the rugby union authorities can allow their game to become more powerful and more confrontational.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When your partner opens in a suit and you as a non-passed hand respond by making a single jump in a new suit, that is forcing to game. It is known as a jump shift. Here are two examples: 1 H-2 S or 1 S-3 C.

Now what should be the characteristic of the hand that makes the jump shift? First, it is not necessary to jump in a new suit just because you have game-going values; if you make a minimum response in a new suit, that is forcing, and you can either go to game on the next round of the auction or make a further forcing bid.

As the jump shift uses an extra round of bidding, the modern style is to use it in a specialised way: responder has either a good one-suited hand, or a hand with primary support for the opener's suit. In both cases with high-card strength equivalent to at least 15 or so. For example, suppose your partner opens One Heart and you hold one of the following:

1) ♠ KQJ10843 ♥ 5 ♦ AK4 ♣ K3	2) ♠ AKJ105 ♥ KJ105 ♦ 7 ♣ AS	3) ♠ KQ1085 ♥ Q4 ♦ AKJ ♣ KJ4
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These are all Two Spades responses. With (1) you intend to rebid Three Spades to show your fine suit; with (2) you support hearts on the next round (or cue-bid to show your support); and with (3) you intend to rebid Three No-Trumps to show your balanced hand and outside stoppers.

Now suppose you hold:

4) ♠ KQ852 ♥ 6 ♦ AK1084 ♣ AS	5) ♠ Q87542 ♥ AS ♦ AK ♣ KQ2	6) ♠ KQ1085 ♥ A4 ♦ AKQ ♣ 872
---------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

None of these hands is suitable for an initial force, although they are just as strong as the first examples. Two-suited hands are better treated by starting with a minimum response, to save bidding space. With that understanding, you can't bid Two Spades with (4); if your partner bids Three Hearts, Four Diamonds by you would be a cue-bid in support of hearts. Anyway, 3NT might be the right spot: start by bidding One Spade and continue with Three Diamonds over Two Hearts.

Hand (5) is unsuitable for a jump shift because its suit is not strong enough. The suit should be headed by two of the top three honours, though a suit headed by AJ10 or KJ10 would just be acceptable.

The problem with Hand (6) is that you would not know what to rebid if partner bid Three Hearts. If you raised him to Four Hearts he would expect better support, perhaps a hand more like (2) above; if you rebid Three No-Trumps you may find the club suit wide open. Better to bid a simple One Spade and see what partner bids.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABATON
a. A manual calculator
b. Without a baton
c. A temple dormitory

BOONGARY
a. A throwing-stick
b. A kangaroo
c. A shooting game

ECTROMELIA
a. Turning outwards
b. No limbs
c. A dwarf shrub

Answers on page 37

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British battle

Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster, dispatched Boris Gelfand to reach the final of the qualifying competition in the Fide world championship in Groningen, Holland. The two-game battle between the British grandmasters, Michael Adams and Nigel Short, ended in a dead-lock but Adams emerged victorious in the play-offs and now faces Anand in the final.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Nigel Short
Fide world championship
Groningen, December 1997

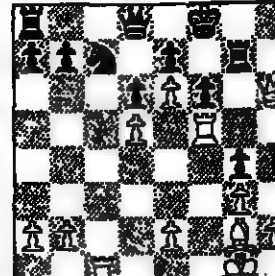
Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nc3	d5
3 Nf3	e6
4 g3	b5
5 Bg2	b7
6 d4	Nf6
7 Bg5	cx4
8 Nxd4	Nf6
9 Bxb6	Ox5
10 O-O	Nc6
11 Nxd5	cx5
12 Qx2	as
13 a4	b4
14 Nb1	as
15 Qx3	as
16 Nc3	cx7
17 Nc3	cx5
18 Nc2	as
19 Rd1	cx4
20 Bf1	as
21 Qf3	Qx6
22 b3	Bx4
23 Rxb1	cx3
24 Bx6	Roxd
25 Nc4	O-O
26 Nc3	g6
27 Rf1	Rx6
28 Rd1	Rc5
29 Kc2	is
30 ex5	gx5
31 Nc4	Rex4
32 Bx6	Ox4
33 Qx7	Rf7

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Buwe-Nestler, Dubrovnik 1950. White's pawn wedge on d5 and e6 cuts the black position in two and enabled him to conclude the game with a neat combination. How did he continue?



Solution on page 37

CRICKET: NEW ZEALAND STAND BETWEEN CHAMPIONS AND PLACE IN FINAL

England's cup mettle faces stern test

FROM THIRASY PETROPOULOS IN MADRAS

AFTER three weeks of travelling within India and Christmas in steamy Madras, England will today play their most important game in four years. At stake is a place in the final of the women's World Cup and, to add further spice to the encounter, England's opponents are New Zealand, whom they beat in the last World Cup final, at Lord's in 1993.

So far, England have not played like world champions. South Africa could easily have beaten them in the opening match in Hyderabad, where England won by seven runs. Then came the run feasts against Pakistan, Denmark and Ireland, but they were not adequate preparation for Australia, who beat England easily in Nagpur in the last qualifying match.

That defeat was the low point of the tour and it was compounded by the exhausting itinerary. In 23 days in India, England have had five

flights, five coach journeys and a six-hour train ride, as well as eight games of cricket. Patience has worn thin in the England camp and breaking-point nearly came on the journey from Delhi to Madras for this match when, after a 3.30am alarm call, the flight

India's second one-day international, against Sri Lanka in Indore, was abandoned after 18 balls yesterday when officials ruled that the pitch was too dangerous for play.

was delayed until past midday due to fog.

England played New Zealand at home in 1996 and, although they were beaten 3-0 in the one-day international, they will at least know what to expect.

Changes will be made to the team that contested the quar-

ter-final against Sri Lanka. There is a feeling that Debbie Hockley, who tormented England in 1996, averaging 82 in the one-day internationals and 94 in the Test matches, is susceptible to slow bowling, especially leg spin, at the start of her innings.

Kathryn Leng will therefore return in place of Laura Maceoed and Karen Smithies will continue to open the bowling. England will also be looking to the leg spin of Charlotte Edwards, which should allow Helen Plimmer to retain her place on the strength of her fielding.

Hockley may have a weakness against spin but she has already scored two centuries in this World Cup and much will depend on how quickly she is dismissed.

Australia, who beat India in the first semi-final yesterday, await the winner of this match. If England lose today,

they will be spectators at Eden Gardens for the final, and there can be no greater incentive to Clark than that.

AUSTRALIA

S Clark bow b Brett ... 31
J Broadbent run out ... 35
M Jones bow b Brett ... 35
M Gould b Brett ... 0
S Hoddinott run out ... 11
K Rixon not out ... 23
S Coker c Hoddinott b Brett ... 11
O Morgan st John b David ... 0
C Mason st John b David ... 0
J Finch not out ... 2
Edwards (b 11, nb 1, w 8) ... 18
Total (7 wickets, 28 overs) ... 138
C Fincham and A Finney did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-48, 3-53, 4-58, 5-113, 6-121, 7-121
BOWLING: Margaret 4-0-13-0, Chaudhary 4-0-0, Ray 5-1-11-0, Brett 6-0-21-0, Brett 7-0-25-3, Williams 6-0-21-0.

INDIA

A Jan b Mago ... 18
C Chopra c Leng b Plimmer ... 15
C Anir bow b Plimmer ... 10
Ravi run out ... 10
S Hoddinott run out ... 10
P Margaret run out ... 11
S Shrivastava not out ... 7
P Brett b Plimmer ... 1
P Chaudhary not out ... 0
O Kulkarni c Morgan ... 0
N David not out ... 0
Total (8 wickets, 30 overs) ... 104
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-34, 3-70, 4-72, 5-75, 6-88, 7-102, 8-104, 9-104
S Chaudhary 1-0-1-16-3, Caver 4-1-19-0, Mason 7-1-10-0, Rixon 5-0-22-0, Mago 5-0-22-1, Finney 2-0-12-0.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

RUSKUP: Hittington 3-mile road race; Men: equal 1:10 Carmelo Elphington and S. Edwards (Birmingham), 16min 57sec. Women: 1, T. Tully (London Irish), 19:08.

CRICKET

One-day international
INDORE (b. Lanka won test): Match abandoned, dangerous pitch

INDIA: 25 R Tendulkar, A Jadhav, 8 C Ganguly, N S Saha, M Asharuddin, R K Singh, H R Monwar, J Smith, R K Sharma, H H Hurdle, S V Saravali.

INDIA: 25 R Tendulkar, A Jadhav, 8 C Ganguly, N S Saha, M Asharuddin, R K Singh, H R Monwar, J Smith, R K Sharma, H H Hurdle, S V Saravali.

INDIA: 25 R Tendulkar, A Jadhav, 8 C Ganguly, N S Saha, M Asharuddin, R K Singh, H R Monwar, J Smith, R K Sharma, H H Hurdle, S V Saravali.

INDIA: 25 R Tendulkar, A Jadhav, 8 C Ganguly, N S Saha, M Asharuddin, R K Singh, H R Monwar, J Smith, R K Sharma, H H Hurdle, S V Saravali.

INDIA: 25 R Tendulkar, A Jadhav, 8 C Ganguly, N S Saha, M Asharuddin, R K Singh, H R Monwar, J Smith, R K Sharma, H H Hurdle, S V Saravali.

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INDIA: 25 R Tendulkar, A Jadhav, 8 C Ganguly, N S Saha, M Asharuddin, R K Singh, H R Monwar, J Smith, R K Sharma, H H Hurdle, S V Saravali.

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results
RYMAN LEAGUE: Full Members cup: Second round: Basingstoke 3 Kingstonian 2, Boreham Wood 3 Wyke 1, Hampton 0 Maidenhead 2, Horden 5 St Albans 1.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Fort William 2 Forres Mechanics 2, Fraserburgh 1 Brechin Thistle 0, Lussmoum 0 Dunfermline 2.

PONTIN LEAGUE: Cup: Group 4: Bishopscote 1 Chorley 1, Group 5: Rotham 3 Tring 3.

JERSEY PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Andover 2 AFC Newbury 5.

ICE HOCKEY
SUPERLEAGUE: Scotland 5 Manchester 4, Newcastle 5 Nottingham 3 (after OT).

BERNARD CUP: Basingstoke 3 Cardiff 2.

MAINE: Orange Bowl: Third round: Boys: Under-18: Wei-jang Cheng (Taipei) of C Shengyu, N S Saha, M Asharuddin, R K Singh, H R Monwar, J Smith, R K Sharma, H H Hurdle, S V Saravali.

MAINE: Orange Bowl: Third round: Boys: Under-18: Wei-jang Cheng (Taipei) of C Shengyu, N S Saha, M Asharuddin, R K Singh, H R Monwar, J Smith, R K Sharma, H H Hurdle, S V Saravali.

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MAINE: Orange Bowl: Third round: Boys: Under-18: Wei-jang Cheng (Taipei) of C Shengyu, N S Saha, M Asharuddin, R K Singh, H R Monwar, J Smith, R K Sharma, H H Hurdle, S V Saravali.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
ANDORRA Soldeu	35	75 good varied (Mostly good skiing available)	good	sun	8 21/12
AUSTRIA Kitzbuhel	0	75 hard heavy worn	worn	cloud	0 22/12
Obertauern	80	120 good powder (Good skiing on the upper slopes)	good	sun	8 22/12
Soal	5	70 good heavy closed (Some good skiing on the upper slopes)	closed	sun	2 22/12
FRANCE Alps d'Huez	60	140 good varied good	good	line	4 21/12
Avoriaz	85	70 good heavy good	good	cloud	3 21/12
Dax Alps	40	120 good powder	fair	line	1 21/12
Raine	35	130 good	fair	line	0 21/12
Megève	10	60 fair varied closed (14/28 lifts and 15/48 pistes are open)	closed	sun	1 21/12
Meribel	15	35 poor none snowmelt (Some good skiing at Cote 2000)	cloud	1 20/12	
ITALY Cervinia	30	200 good heavy good	good	cloud	0 21/12
SWITZERLAND Saas Fee	45	150 good varied closed	closed	cloud	0 21/12
Verbier	10	110 good	closed	cloud	1 21/12
UNITED STATES C Butte	65	80 good varied hard	hard	line	9 18/12

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

protective kit
may create
more danger

Enter the league and win £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a team and win the FA Cup league?

A £10,000 prize is up for grabs for the winner of the brand-new FA Cup league, a league within the ITF.

Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and January 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division teams.

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated.

Any team in the ITF before 12 noon on December 13 received 20 extra transfers in

addition to their present allocation. From now on, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. Entrants must be 18 years or over.

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if appropriate, in the mini leagues — students' or women's.

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

PREMIERSHIP CLUBS IN FA CUP DRAW

Port Harcourt v Asaba Wm
 Asaba v Port Harc
 Ikorodu City v Northampton Town
 Leeds United v Oxford United
 Everton v Newcastle United
 Liverpool v Cardiff City
 West Ham United v Exeter
 Derby County v Southampton
 Tottenham Hotspur v Millwall
 Cardiff City v Gillingham
 Millwall v Sheffield Wednesday
 Cheltenham Town v Northampton United
 Wrexham v Walsley
 Shrewsbury Town v Notts County
 Shrewsbury v Bolton Wanderers
 And to be played on January 3 and 4

[illegible]

THE IFFA CUP LEAGUE

£10,000 to the winner

HOW TO PLAY

Study the Cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team as follows:

You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.

You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 centre defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.

You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your transfer allocation.

You may enter as many teams as you wish.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10 sterling and may only be made by post.

No enter, call

0891 405 011

(Republic of Ireland) 44 990 100 303

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME															
(Up to 16 characters)															
Goalkeeper															
Full back															
Full back															
Central defender															
Central defender															
Midfielder															
Midfielder															
Midfielder															
Midfielder															
Striker															
Striker															
Manager															

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX) 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐

How often do you read The Times? Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐

Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Police Sat
10101	J Laughton	Abandon	2.00
10201	D Bennett	Aston	5.00
10301	M Bennett	Arson Villa	3.00
10401	D Whitten	Barnum	1.00
10501	F Powers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
10601	K Bennett	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
10701	S Bar	Celtic	4.00
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.00
10801	E De Gooz	Chelsea	3.00
10802	K Olympeck	Coventry City	1.50
10901	D Hill	Crested	1.00
11002	K Mills	Crystal Palace	2.00
11101	M Hill	Derby County	1.50
11201	S Dymall	Dundee United	2.00
11301	J Webster	Durham City	1.00
11401	R Hill	Exeter	2.00
11501	C Hill	Exeter	3.50
11601	R Hill	Fulham	1.50
11602	D Gough/Sumner	Gloster	1.00
11701	D Lawrie	Glasgow	1.00
11801	R Bawn	Grimsby	3.50
11802	K Kell	Leeds City	3.00
11901	K Hill	Liverpool	3.50
12101	P Schuchel	Manchester United	5.00
12201	S Howle	Manchestr	1.00
12301	S Giles	Manchester United	1.00
12401	A Gorman	Reading	1.00
12501	R Gorman	Sheff Wednesd	3.00
12702	J Jones	Southampton	1.00
12801	A Malt	St Albans	0.50
12901	Wash	St Albans	0.50
12902	T Hill	West Ham United	2.00
12903	W Hill	West Ham	2.00

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Town	Price Jan
20201	L Dace	Arnsford	3.00
20202	M Whittemore	Arnsford	3.00
20203	S Peatt	Arnsford	3.00
20204	S Situation	Aston Villa	2.50
20205	G Wright	Aston Villa	2.50
20206	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50
20207	F Nabholz	Aston Villa	2.00
20208	H Eaden	Barnesley	0.50
20209	M Thompson	Barnesley	0.50
20210	R Bernard	Barnesley	0.50
20211	J Keanee	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20212	P Vederly	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20213	M Cae	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
20214	M Whitaker	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
20215	R Ellis	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
20216	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
20217	T O'Neil	Colts	3.50
20218	T Mackley	Colts	3.50
20219	J McManus	Colts	3.00
20220	G Lo Sasso	Chelsea	4.00
20221	D Robinson	Chelsea	2.00
20222	C Bailey	Chelsea	2.00
20223	F Fletcher	Chelsea	2.00
20224	D Davison	Coventry City	1.00
20225	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00
20226	R Pitterson	Coventry City	1.00
20227	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.00
20228	M Schofield	Crystal Palace	1.00
20229	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.00
20230	C Powell	Derby County	1.00
20231	T Hogg	Derby County	1.00
20232	G Howatt	Derby County	2.50
20233	R Russell	Derby County	2.50
20234	E Bingham	Everton	1.50
20235	T Pickett	Everton	1.50
20236	M Ward	Everton	1.50
20237	D Kerr	Hearts	1.50
20238	G Lindsay	Kilmarnock	1.50
20239	D Kelly	Lancs United	2.50
20240	R Robinson	Lancs United	2.50
20241	G Gough	Liverpool City	2.50
20242	B Bingham	Liverpool	3.00
20243	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00
20244	D Meeks	Manchester United	3.50
20245	G Hodge	Manchester United	3.50
20246	P Hodge	Manchester United	3.50
20247	S Webster	Manchester United	3.50
20248	P Pearson	Newcastle United	2.00
20249	J Brewster	Newcastle United	2.00
20250	A Coleman	Newcastle United	3.00
20251	S Stannan	Newcastle United	3.00
20252	P McDonald	Sheff Wed	2.00
20253	M Smith	Sheff Wed	2.00
20254	J Dodd	Southampton	0.75
20255	J Bernal	Southampton	0.75
20256	R Crawford	Southampton	0.75
20257	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
20258	E Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
20259	S Orr	West Ham United	1.00
20260	J Dicks	West Ham United	1.00
20261	A Lempy	Wigan Athletic	2.00
20262	S Lempy	Wigan Athletic	2.00

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Town	Price \$
30101	S O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00
30201	T Adams	Aranwal	3.00
30302	M Koutas	Aranwal	3.00
30203	G Griswold	Aranwal	3.00
30204	S Bourd	Aranwal	2.00
30301	C Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00
30302	U Hight	Aston Villa	3.00
30401	D McEwen	Barnley	1.88
30402	A Moses	Barnley	0.50
30403	M Appleby	Barnley	0.50
30502	C Deane	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
30504	S Hinchant	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30602	R Hinchant	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
30601	O Tiggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30602	G Bergerson	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30603	J Hinchant	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30604	N Pelt	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30701	M Pelt	Celtic	1.50
30702	M Mackay	Celtic	3.00
30703	A Stubbie	Celtic	3.00
30704	M Roper	Celtic	2.00
30801	F Lawford	Chelsea	3.00
30802	C Hinchant	Chelsea	3.00
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	3.00
30804	J Hinchant	Chelsea	3.00
30901	L Daniels	Coventry City	2.50
30902	R Hinchant	Coventry City	2.50
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50
31001	A Roberts	Croydon Palace	1.50
31002	P Williams	Croydon Palace	0.75

Crystal Palace
Derby County
Derby County

21301	S Pressley	Dundee United	2.50
21301	G Shields	Durdermen	1.50
21401	R Hill	Everton	2.50
21403	G Wynn	Everton	2.00
21404	R Hill	Everton	1.50
21405	D Weir	Hearts	2.00
21501	G Watt	Hibernian	2.00
21501	J Hughes	Leeds United	2.50
21501	G Halls	Leeds United	2.50
21502	G Halls	Leeds United	2.00
21503	R Buchanan	Leeds United	2.50
21504	L Fletcher	Leeds United	2.00
21501	M Elliott	Liverpool City	2.00
21502	R Fletcher	Liverpool City	2.50
21503	S Walsh	Liverpool City	2.00
21504	S Hogg	Liverpool	2.50
22001	R Wright	Liverpool	1.50
22002	D White	Liverpool	3.00
22003	S Brown	Liverpool	1.50
22001	R Berg	Manchester United	3.50
22010	D May	Manchester United	2.50
22102	R Berg	Manchester United	3.50
22201	F Albert	Newcastle United	1.50
22202	D Pearson	Newcastle United	2.50
22203	R Honey	Newcastle United	3.50
22304	A Preston	Newcastle United	3.00
22401	E Smith	Rangers	3.00
22402	J Bjornlund	Rangers	3.50
22403	L Amaratne	Rangers	3.50
22404	R Gifford	Rangers	2.50
22501	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22502	J Newcombe	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22503	R Gifford	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00
22702	S Luckman	Southampton	1.00
22703	E Marshall	Southampton	1.00
22704	S Luckman	Southampton	1.00
22801	S McCann	St Johnstone	0.20
22801	S McCann	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
22802	J Smith	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
22903	R Viegas	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
22904	C Tottenham	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
23001	R Finlayson	West Ham United	2.50
23002	R Smith	West Ham United	2.50
23103	S Greenhill	West Ham United	2.50
23203	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50
23204	J Pearce	West Ham United	2.00
23301	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50
23302	D Stewart	Wimbledon	2.50

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Cable	Name	Town	Price £m
40101	E. Jean	Abbotsdon	2.00
40102	P. Barnard	Abbotsdon	2.00
40201	J. Owens	Arteral	5.50
40202	P. Viders	Arteral	3.50
40203	S. Hughes	Arteral	2.00
40204	R. Parbot	Arteral	2.50
40205	L. Platt	Arteral	1.50
40301	M. Gwyer	Auton Villa	3.00
40302	T. Taylor	Auton Villa	2.50
40401	N. Nickerson	Stannely	3.00
40402	T. Jones	Stannely	3.00
40403	L. Sherrin	Stannely	1.00
40404	M. Duffell	Stannely	0.50
40501	J. Wilkes	Blackburn Pines	3.00
40502	B. McKenna	Blackburn Pines	3.00

Blackburn R.
Barnes R.
Barnes R.

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Up and down a crazy year

Richard Morrison looks back on a 1997 that reads more like an episode of *Tales of the Unexpected*

If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two impostors just the same... well, you may or may not be a Man, but you would be ideally equipped to write this account of a crazy, rollercoaster year in the arts. Triumphs and disasters overtook each other so frequently that I was reminded of the *Batman* comics of my misspent youth — the ones that left our hero clinging to some fraying rope at the end of each instalment, only to kerry-pow him to ever more improbable victories seven nail-biting days later.

On the news pages we gawped at headlines of arts organisations in turmoil. How on earth could they survive? And was this what Tony Blair had in mind when, in a bluster of pre-election rhetoric, he said that the arts were "central" to his "vision of a decent and good society"?

Yet when we turned to the arts pages we found not only that the shows had gone on, but that there was scintillation everywhere. There were films... no, miracle of miracles, there were British films, worth seeing twice. New plays worth arguing about. Pop tunes worth whistling. New paintings that aroused violent passions. There were even reports to be opera companies that put their most exciting performances on stage, rather than in front of Gerald Kaufman's Select Committee on Culture.

In fact it was in the field of opera that triumph and disaster intermingled most disconcertingly. Both English National Opera and the Royal Opera put on many creditable shows. Yet ENO began the year as a target for press abuse, having commissioned a £25 million study into the possibility of moving to a new theatre. It then parted unhappily from its general director, he way through the year, and ended 1997 desperately fighting for its independence after Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, floated the idea of moving ENO to Covent Garden.

Very unsettling for ENO's punters. In January they were told by ENO chairman John Baker that the company had to quit the Coliseum to survive. "The logic of moving is compelling," he said. By November they were getting lectures from the stage on the importance of ENO staying put. Still, at least ENO has a chairman and board. In 12 months its Covent Garden rivals have managed to lose a chief executive, a chairman, a board, a mountain of money on a disastrous baller season at a rock venue in Hammer-smith — and all credibility.

Interviewed by *The Times* shortly after the Royal Opera House had been bailed out (twice) to avoid bankruptcy, the new chief executive, Mary Allen, declared that things could only get better. Oh really? A fortnight later Kaufman's select committee published its scathing attack on Covent Garden. Allen sur-

vived: her lords and masters did not. Now a new board and chairman, yet to be appointed, must present the best possible case for the Royal Opera House's survival to an opera-reform committee chaired by Sir Richard Eyre.

The paradox of success and failure coexisting extended to the spoken theatre as well. Dire tales of famous theatres going bust (Liverpool Everyman) or running up heavy losses (Chichester, the RSC) were mixed with stories of heartwarming successes. The Old Vic was resurrected, albeit temporarily, as a magnificent centre for serious rep, thanks to the Mirvish millions and the Peter Hall flair. The reconstructed Globe was declared a hit: eccentric but refreshingly different, like its actor-manager Mark Rylance.

Lord Lloyd-Webber announced that his Really Useful Group — hitherto considered among the more buoyant showbiz institutions — was expecting big losses this year, and blamed it on the waning attractions of mega-musicals. But are they wrong? Hardly.

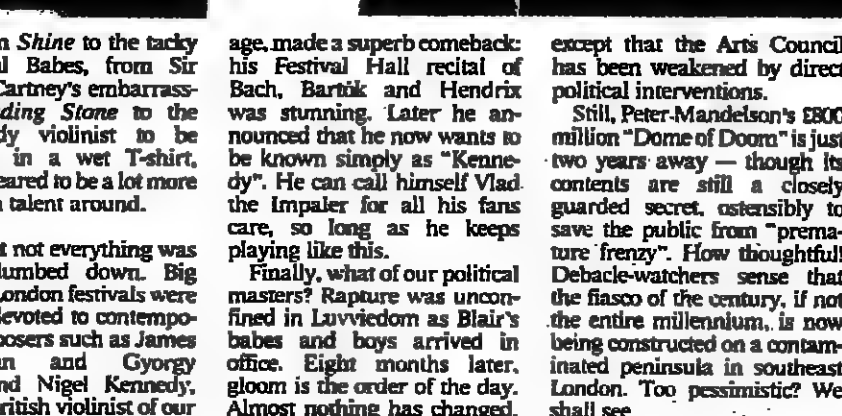
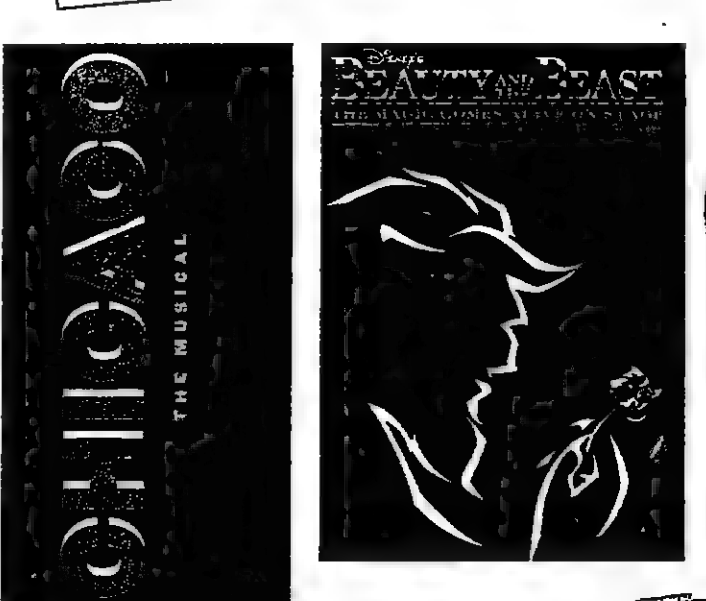
Disney's £10 million stage version of its screen hit *Beauty and the Beast* enchanted even the stoniest scribes, and *Chicago* won rave reviews for a sharp, saucy production featuring toothsome Ruthie Henshall and leggy Ute Lemper.

Amazingly, the films that people discussed most often this year mostly had a strong British input. The Isle of Wight's new hero, Anthony Minghella, saw his *English Patient* snatch nine Oscars. Better still, the film helped Michael Ondaatje's complex novel to put on a remarkable 180,000 extra sales in three weeks.

The *Full Monty*, *Brassed Off* and *Fever Pitch* all struck chords with overseas audiences despite their downbeat English concerns. And *Wilde* redeemed the career of Stephen Fry, and also outraged Oscar Wilde's grandson, apparently because it portrayed Wilde as "too homosexual".

The visual art year was dominated by one show and, within that, one painting. The show was *Sensation*, the Royal Academy's attempt to hitch itself to trendy "Britart" and boost its empty coffers. It succeeded in both aims. The picture was Marcus Harvey's startling portrait of *Myra Hindley* made from children's handprints. It hit a nerve in the national psyche that jangled for weeks.

Meanwhile, an increasingly acrimonious row about admission charges soured the museum world. Lost in the argument was the underlying reality that Britain's museums, though stacked with beautiful things, are not perceived by the public as being exciting places to visit — certainly not compared with the sensations created abroad by the opening of Frank Gehry's astonishing Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and



Cheers to a poor but happy medium

RADIO: Crackers for Christmas

There is a persistent belief that at Christmas virtually the entire nation gathers round televisions, leaving a few thousand rather tragic cases, mostly the old, the infirm, the poverty-stricken and radio critics, to clutch at a radio set for warmth. If so, those groups scarcely know how lucky they are.

Radio is the medium that makes a qualitative effort at this time of the year, eschewing the formulaic approach of television. Even stations not normally associated with original programming have made the effort. Talk Radio has a documentary coming up tomorrow about racism in football. It is called *The Law With The Flaw* and the flaw is that the 1991 Football Offences Act allows a prosecution only if two or more people are shouting offensive remarks, a loophole rather subtly exploited by thugs who spread themselves out in a crowd.

The sheer scale of the BBC makes its output the principal measure of radio at Christmas and it is here that the contrast with television is starkest. My own theory is that the relative financial poverty of radio makes it better, not worse, than television at Christmas because the poor have to try harder (especially under new Labour).

BBC Radio is also a coat of many colours. Listeners to some of the corporation's networks yesterday and today would scarcely guess it was Christmas at all. The award for dogged distinctiveness must go to Radio 5 Live which, in spite of seasonal references, had virtually nothing that was outside its usual remit. "Yesterday" the network even put out *Sportscall Live* with the caustic Dominick Diamond at 9am, just in case anyone had thought they were waking up to a day with a difference.

Radio 3 for the most part stands above the fray: sometimes its strenuous efforts to avoid looking tacky can be infuriating. It ran a secular schedule for most of Christmas Day and even the one overtly religious programme, yesterday's *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, was a repeat from Radio 4's Christmas Eve output.

Radios 1 and 2 become ever more distinctive as the months go by. The former is determinedly festive but not remotely religious, the latter is sentimental with touches of religiosity. But neither even attempts to match Radio 4 for presenting the very image of the British Christmas.

Yesterday's Radio 4 schedule had tradition written all over it without seeming old-fashioned. The Queen at 9am, a magic show at noon, some Dickens, classic comedy, a (very good) short documentary by Mark Tully about Joseph of Nazareth, and a down-to-earth, but Christmas-y, drama.

The network that gets so many of its diehard listeners so worked up has been, reassuringly, its old self.

PETER BARNARD

All the electricity of the greats without the static

Get your rare Toscanini CDs here! Beecham bargains this way! Those are not cries heard regularly on the streets, even outside specialist record shops. But courtesy of Klaus Heymann's bargain label Naxos, they soon might be. At the beginning of December his company launched a historical series at its regular low-price mark.

Characteristically, it plunged in at the deep end, issuing seven complete operas (on two and three-CD sets) recorded during the 1930s and 1940s, the early days of the famous radio broadcasts from New York's Metropolitan Opera. An eighth set, Johann Strauss's *A Night in Venice*, comes from a contemporary German broadcast.

Naxos's sources for this first release are the archives of the Canada-based Immortal Performances Record Music Society (IPRMS), recommended to Heymann by the series producer Jonathan Wearn. The recordings, mostly from radio "transcription discs", but some from private collectors' tapes, were remastered

RECORDS:
Mike Ashman on a series of historic performances given new life by computer wizardry

by the collector and IPRMS archivist Richard Caneill, then computer-cleaned.

The Mer operas in this first tranche are Gluck's *Armide*, Gounod's *Faust*, Donizetti's *La Fille du Regiment*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Massenet's *Manon* and Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. An unconventional selection, certainly.

Heymann hopes the historical series will interest the "increasingly sophisticated" Naxos buyer — someone, for example, who is buying all the label's new series of

Liszt's solo piano music. Another hope is that the obsessive collector will be led from following just one artist to buying complete works or, best of all, that the series will intrigue a new generation of collectors. Now, for less than a fiver, you can hear the much-discussed Ezio Pinza, not moonlighting as Emile in *South Pacific*, but in his day job as Mozart's diabolic seducer, or as the Devil himself in *Faust* — and without that familiar Tärpm hall of static.

Try Naxos's 1942 *Don Giovanni* first. The conductor Bruno Walter was noted for both Mozart and opera, but mainly remembered these days from saintly recordings made in older age. Here, he launches Elvira's entrance aria at a tempo that makes today's period-instrument conductors sound like late Otto Klemperer. His fiery, dramatic reading balances the score well — winds, for example, never get lost. It's big, certainly, but it's always Mozart.

The cast has weight, but also wit. Alexander Kipnis, famous in tragic bass roles, is a nimble Leporello;



(From left) Arturo Toscanini, Sir Thomas Beecham and Bruno Walter are among the conductors featured



(From left) Arturo Toscanini, Sir Thomas Beecham and Bruno Walter are among the conductors featured



(From left) Arturo Toscanini, Sir Thomas Beecham and Bruno Walter are among the conductors featured

Rose Bampton, soon to be Toscanini's Leonore, is Anna Bidu Sayao, acclaimed for more consumptive heroines, is Zerlina; and, at last, we hear Pinza in his signature role (suavely aristocratic but, on some enchanted afternoons, obviously prone to run ahead of the beat).

The all-German performance (1938) of *A Night in Venice* shows off the in-the-blood style of singers Marcel Wirtsch, Erich Zimmermann and Karl Schmitt-Walter in unforgoingly witty enunciation of sung and spoken text. As Donizetti's military orphan, the daughter of the regiment, it is the tiny

French-Italian diva Lily Pons who stars — the *not just* for a lady noted for a spell in Hollywood and sparing attendance at rehearsals. It was recorded in December 1940, so all references to the French flag excite the audience, while gulls and applause greet every move, by the giant Italian buffo Salvatore Baccaloni's Sergeant Sulpice.

The real question for a popular label must be, can you listen to these performances in 1998 without relying on nostalgia and aural imagination to compensate for poor sound? No two companies, engineers, or even critics agree on how

much it is legitimate to "infer" with an original source. Naxos's source material was taken down in live performance. Pitch problems, missing fragments of music, the noise that relatively primitive re-producing systems made — all mean big work for a reissue engineer. The Naxos transfers I have sampled are interventionist, but not the noise-reduction processes they are good on pitch and continuity (a big achievement). If lacking the last refinement of acoustic consistency.

There are a few teething troubles.

Naxos's booklets should carry a plot synopsis as well as an historical recording note, and spell names of performers and roles better. There is talk of drawing on other opera houses' archives — try Covent Garden's tawdry from the 1930s, largely ignored by EMI, but care should be taken that the best items are selected for issue. Better Met performances of *Faust* and *Hoffmann* than Naxos's have circulated.

In the next year Naxos plans a further 18 operas, including *Rigoletto* (with charismatic baritone actor Lawrence Tibbett), Charpentier's *Louise* (with filmstar diva Grace Moore, conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham) and *The Magic Flute* from the pre-war Salzburg Festival, where Toscanini conducted and one Georg Solti played clockenspiel.

There will also be an extensive Toscanini edition (initially 26 releases) which will provide alternatives to performances already released by RCA. It will come in two-CD packs and include the much sought-after 1930s New York Beethoven symphony cycle.

Naxos's new series is not, of course, about digital high fidelity, but it does provide inexpensive and listenable access to performances that are the musical equivalent of Hollywood's great black-and-white movie era.

مكتبة الفن

A child of six could do that

The daubings of children have inspired much great modern art, as a new book demonstrates. Richard Cork reports

When Roger Fry mounted his volcanic Post-Impressionist show in 1910, London was shaken by this sudden exposure to the revolutionary forces of modern art. Horrified by the exhibition, my predecessor on *The Times* claimed in this newspaper that "it throws away all that the long-developed skill of past artists had acquired and perpetuated. It begins all over again — and stops where a child would stop... It is the rejection of all that civilisation has done, the good with the bad."

Many of the incensed viewers who thronged the Grafton Galleries, and vented their indignation in the visitors' book, agreed with this unbridled verdict. The survey, spanning innovative developments in European art from Manet to Matisse, offered to their affronted eyes evidence of galloping infantism. They considered it wilfully crude, the daubing of charlatans in callow flight from everything a mature, sophisticated and technically accomplished artist should be expected to produce.

Similar accusations have been hurled at audacious work ever since. "A child of six could do it" continues to be trotted out as a well-worn expression of outrage by intemperate gallery-goers today. But the viewers who regurgitate this platitude fail to understand that artists themselves find nothing offensive in such an accusation. On the contrary: they regard it as a compliment well worth receiving. For the work produced by children has been a central source of inspiration to many major 20th-century painters.

Until now, the full extent of their debt has not been appreciated. But in an illuminating and at times revelatory new book, Jonathan Fineberg reveals just how dependent the great masters of Modernism were on child art. Fineberg, who is Professor of Art History at the University of Illinois, became fascinated by the subject when an invitation arrived from the Detroit Institute of Arts. They asked him to organise an exhibition directly comparing children's pictures to

outstanding 20th-century works of art. He felt sceptical at first. After all, how far could anyone argue that the protean genius of Picasso was fundamentally dependent on stimulus provided by untrained image-makers, whose experience of the world is so limited? The truth, however, swept away Fineberg's initial doubts, and made him embark on "the most exciting journey into art history I have ever undertaken".

He turned first to Kandinsky, whose pioneering pre-1914 abstractions had already been the focus of his doctoral dissertation. Like other historians, he knew that Kandinsky

prodigiously inventive years. And many of them, especially the "primitive" work produced by four-year-olds, were used in Kandinsky's own paintings.

A coloured drawing of an elephant, by a Russian girl called Liliya Kenda, is quoted in his 1909 canvas of the same subject. But Kandinsky's animal seems even more markedly "naïve" than Liliya's. He encloses the elephant in thick, brusque outlines, and paints on its back a drape spattered with freely applied stains of sensuous colour. Kandinsky was obsessed by what he termed "the inner sound of the subject". He used this remarkable collection of images as a springboard for his own, radical attempt to escape from naturalism and arouse the spiritual consciousness of the viewer.

Other artists found fruitful inspiration in the work they had produced during their own childhoods. Impatient with the academic paintings he was making in Rome, Klee discovered some early drawings preserved in his parents' shed. He found them far more exciting, in their wit and freedom from convention, than his current work. Between 1903 and 1905 Klee made 17 *Inventions* which, in their grotesquely distorted comedy, owe a great deal to the example of his boyhood pictures. For the rest of his career he would find stimulus in the spontaneity, directness and raw dynamism of children's work.

Picasso likewise saw it as a lifelong preoccupation. Accompanying Sir Herbert Read round a child art show in Paris after the Second World War, he studied the exhibits with rapt attention. Then, turning to Read, he said: "When I was the age of these children I could draw like Raphael. It took me many years to learn how to draw like these children." Although he never used their images in his work, Picasso studied his own children's pictures with enormous delight. When painting Claude and Paloma Picasso making art, he used a style frankly indebted to their swift, impulsive simplicity. And he la-



Joan Miró discussing a drawing by his daughter Dolores with her: he preserved her pictures with great care in annotated envelopes

mented the fact that his father, a professor of drawing, had encouraged him to vie with academic ideals from an early age.

Time and again in the present century, artists recognised how much they had to gain by casting adult conventions aside. The energy and exhilaration of Miró's work is paralleled in the pictures pro-

duced by his daughter Dolores. He relished her zest, finding in it a confirmation of the direction he had himself pursued. Miró preserved her early pictures with great care in annotated portfolio envelopes, and even sent one to Kandinsky in 1935. Around 30 years later, he declared that "the older I got and the more I master

the medium, the more I return to my earliest experiences. I think that at the end of my life I will recover all the force of my childhood."

He succeeded in doing so, arriving in his old age at a vision that Fineberg describes as "a subversive innocence". Those three words can stand as a telling summary of the essential attraction of children's

pictures. Their contribution to the irrepressible vivacity of modern art has been invaluable, and deserves a special accolade at a time when education has been moved to the very centre of the political stage.

● *The Innocent Eye: Children's Art and the Modern Artist* by Jonathan Fineberg is published by Princeton University Press, price £60

Boxing Day Jumbo Crossword Competition

ACROSS

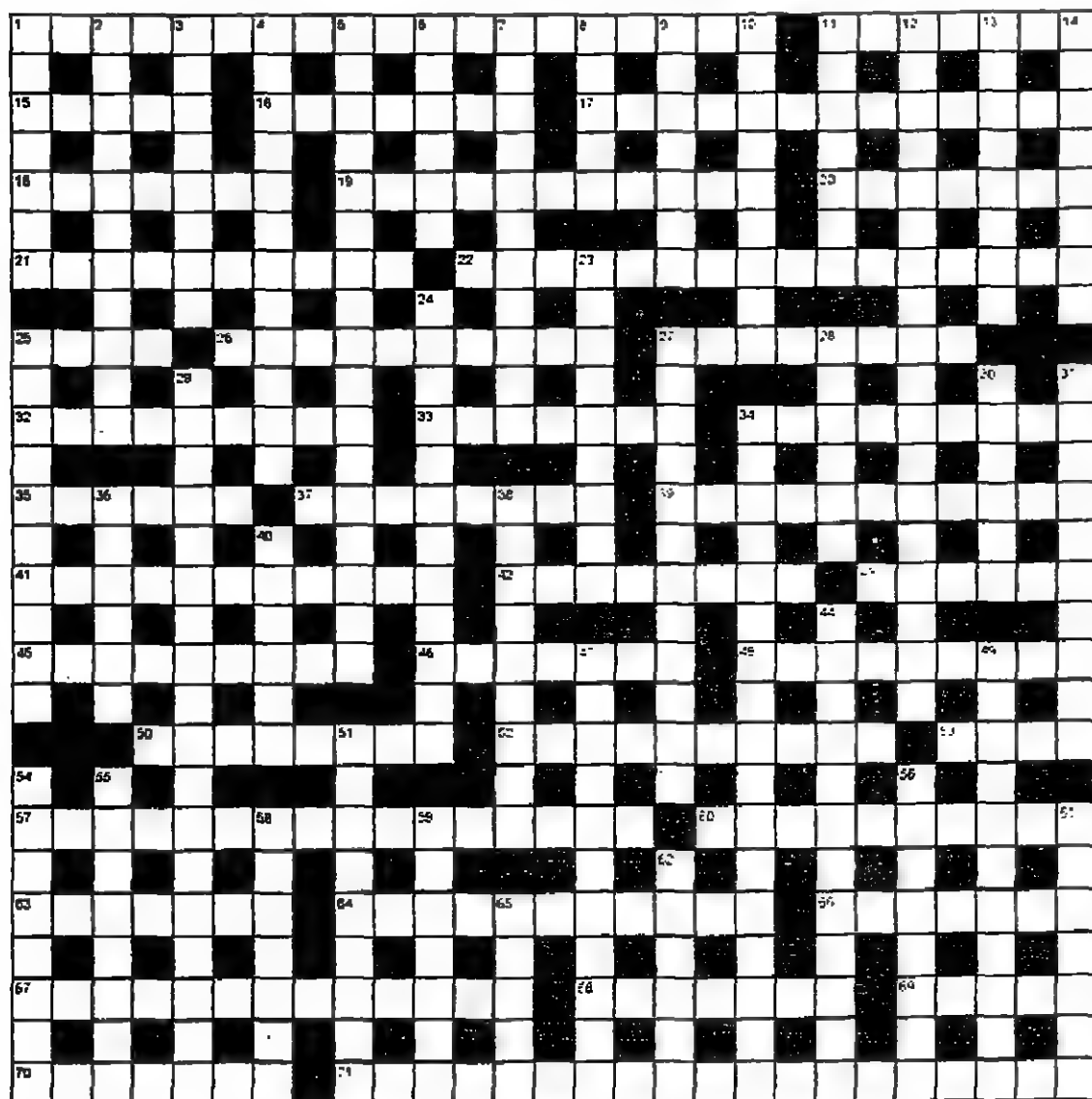
- 1 When will we sing in celebration today? (2,3,5,7)
- 11 Rejected what Jack's wife did about female material? (7)
- 15 One taking liberty could be at it! (5)
- 16 Equestrian always carries key books (7)
- 17 This isn't made plain in the bar (4,9)
- 18 Lock rented jewellery first? (7)
- 19 Not contemplating being inconsiderate (11)
- 20 One missing flight - East German, well-off? (7)
- 21 Am I still operating illegally? (10)
- 22 Disagreeing, when playing big hits and other numbers (2,5,3,6)
- 25 To some extent, one appears to go with the tide (4)
- 26 Stick by legal term, perhaps an invention of the Musicians Union (3,7)
- 27 Figure a cynic may apply to Military Intelligence (8)
- 32 This may cover Jack, until brief paragraph's edited (9)
- 33 This Scottish town could provide equipment for salon within the hour (7)
- 34 Far-seeing scientist may use this (9)
- 35 In Credo, perhaps, I give a poetry reading (6)
- 37 Complaints - English king's mistress rejected for Shakespearean role (8)
- 39 Revised view of clairvoyant? (6,5)
- 41 A force to be reckoned with, operating from the centre of things (11)
- 42 Assistance with a wager - deliberate eavesdropping (8)
- 43 County near collapsing - that's one in the eye for spectators! (6)
- 45 Outcome of section in bowls tournament (3,6)
- 46 Implement a chef's requirement (7)
- 48 It's antique, engraved on the outside - could be beaten? (9)
- 50 Show what's been programmed (8)
- 52 Breathe in gas fuels, and faint, going wobbly (10)
- 53 Element of insulting ridicule in certain bars (4)
- 57 There'll be room for me to fit, in theory (8,8)
- 60 It could make you tense, having to study Latin (10)
- 63 Line up, chanting, before dance? It should put one in pocket (3,4)
- 64 Play the queen in 1252 - turbulent part of declining years (11)
- 66 Most proud of cosy home, after state one found first? (7)
- 67 Found guilty, I'd meant to reform! Absolutely! (13)
- 68 A page of seasonal entertainment (7)
- 69 Ass is in a hole, without wife's backing (5)
- 70 Show approval of last runner, not the leader (7)
- 71 Circled the right letter, as proof of one's claim (10,5,4)

DOWN

- 1 Our milk is brewed in metal container (3,4)
- 2 This animal no longer usually accompanies us, Rex (11)
- 3 Does it help one observing spectacle in New York? (8)
- 4 Current fashion (12)
- 5 A reasonable display, uncharacteristically low-key (9,3,5)
- 6 Drink first two up, given the choice (6)
- 7 More attractive pair coming in, comparatively vivacious (11)
- 8 Half of them satisfied one of the local workers (5)
- 9 Greek chap will shortly introduce three points (7)
- 10 It's vital, when going after the money (9)
- 11 Anything up with sheep that's been duplicated? (7)
- 12 So Nijinsky may have rejected a meal, given first-hand information (4,3,6,5)
- 13 One's bound to see mistakes in the paper (8)
- 14 Boarding steam loco - your traditional gem (8)
- 23 Knowing little of part of the reign or ancestry (9)
- 24 Prepared disclaimer - didn't injured lion-tamer do this, when told to? (6,6)
- 25 Sweet-sounding combination that may take Brazil apart (10)
- 27 So I'm very flip, when disposed to do this? (12)
- 28 Not a square, having more breadth, perhaps (6)
- 29 One's made a quick pile, producing fuel (4,7,7)
- 30 A bit of spirit shown by the head (6)
- 31 Are such compliments passed out by socialists? (4-6)
- 34 But it shouldn't make one collapse on Boxing Day! (9,5)
- 36 Woman nominated has the ability to lead the country (6)
- 38 Left article to be put in late in the day, making certain modifications (9)
- 40 Iron fixed up with safety device designed to give out (6)
- 44 Said au revoir in Madrid (5,2,5)
- 47 Sleep with cubist, disgracefully easily led (11)
- 49 The facility to fill up a field with fruit trees? (7,4)
- 51 Is one supposed to wink at other motorists? (9)
- 54 A feature of a coat of many colours? (8)
- 55 Restoring Burns in a class for pupils of a certain ability (8)
- 56 I should replace first vowel in word game - not a good draw (8)
- 58 My contract binds me to proceed with refurbishments - of Globe, that is (7)
- 59 Show a bit of leg - enjoy the party! (7)
- 61 Secure way to earn a living in broadcasting system (7)
- 62 Summons made VIP squirrel (8)
- 65 Perhaps, about past in great depth (5)

TEST YOUR WORD POWER IN OUR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday, January 12, 1998. Entries should be sent to: **Boxing Day Jumbo Crossword (142), The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.** The winner and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, January 17



NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 POSTCODE _____

Times Two Crossword

There are no prizes for this competition. The answers will be published on Monday, December 29

ACROSS

- 1 One worn by king of Hungary (5,5,2,3,7)
- 11 Strife, clashing (7)
- 15 Courted (5)
- 16 Looking lasciviously (7)
- 17 Shak, misanthrope play (5,2,6)
- 18 Spring back; tied again (7)
- 19 Rusting process (11)
- 20 Completely finished (3,4)
- 21 Ridiculing (10)
- 22 Naivety (6-10)
- 25 Peril girl (4)
- 26 Flock together (10)
- 27 Coin-operated calling apparatus (5)
- 32 A pastry, a preserve (9)
- 33 Cuckoo: one reflective at night (4-3)
- 34 Candy floss stuff (4,5)
- 35 Put right (6)
- 37 One to be snuffed in (8)
- 39 Dampening (the air) (11)
- 41 Proper (behaviour) (Fr.) (5,2,4)
- 42 Undeviating (9)
- 43 Set-piece fight (6)
- 45 Eg Derby runner (9)
- 46 Across (ship's) path (7)
- 48 Infamous (9)
- 50 Diagonally-coded (tyre) (5,3)
- 52 Exonure novel (*Blackmore*) (5,5)
- 53 Nurse; incline (4)
- 57 Being too sweeping (16)
- 60 (Church) factionalist (10)
- 63 Son of Prokneus (7)
- 64 Wave meaningfully (11)
- 66 Item of clothing (7)
- 67 Rough result (13)
- 68 (Cardinal nominated) secretly (2,5)
- 69 Do hastily, poorly (5)
- 70 First RC president of US (7)
- 71 Ticklish legal decisions have unwelcome effect (4,5,4,3,3)

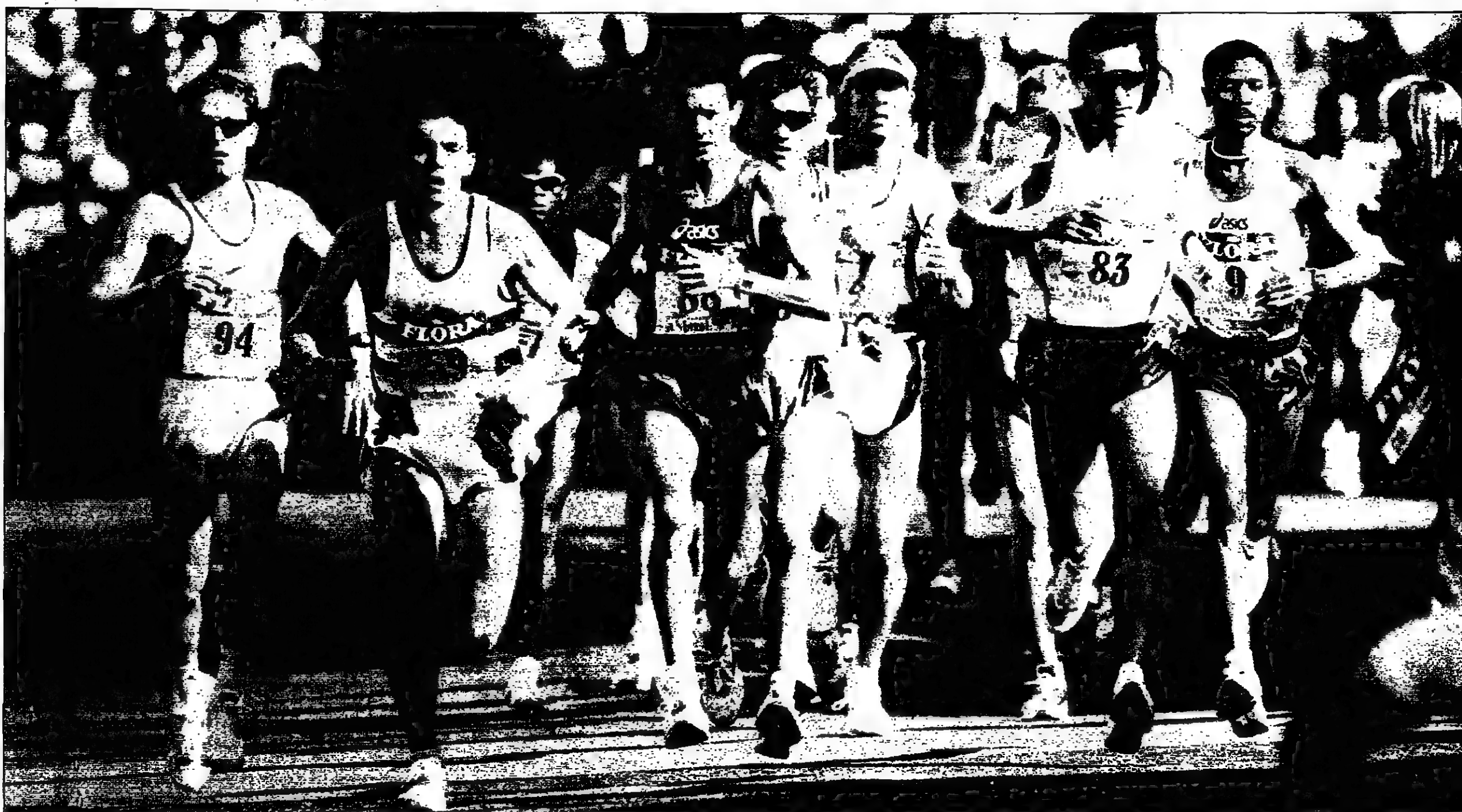
DOWN

- 1 In direction of (7)
- 2 Immoderateness (11)
- 3 Marxist Cultural Revolutionary (3,5)
- 4 Benevolent (4-8)
- 5 Keats *Immortal Bird!* poem (5,2,1,1)
- 6 Courage; wul (th)
- 7 Meaningful (11)
- 8 On top (5)
- 9 Skin length (7)
- 10 Unimportant person (4)
- 11 To cheat (7)
- 12 Made eg a will (7,4,7)
- 13 Summary introduction (8)
- 14 Suspicion (8)
- 23 Compeer (9)
- 24 Trading fleet (8,4)
- 25 Ledge in support standing monk (10)
- 27 BC (era) (3,9)
- 28 Badgers; dogs (6)
- 29 Speak appropriately (Fr.) (6,5,4)
- 30 Prejudiced against elderly (6)
- 31 Moved forward (10)
- 34 Classical band (8,4)
- 36 Abrasive stone (6)
- 38 Agamemnon dramatist (9)
- 40 Emergency signals: wide-bottomed trousers (6)
- 44 Permanent source of amusement (8,4)
- 47 Study of flight (11)
- 49 *Pari one's prime* (4,3,4)
- 51 Block of text (9)
- 54 Lord Chancellor's seat (8)
- 55 Never-growing up boy (5,3)
- 56 Food of gods (8)
- 58 In unpleasant way (7)
- 59 More ruckily healthy (7)
- 61 One manipulated by another (4-3)
- 62 South American plain (6)
- 65 Type of bond (chem.); a Greek order (5)

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

A chance to go the distance for Diana



Wanted: 20 people to run the marathon as fundraisers for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund



The Times has secured 20 places for its readers to take part in the 1998 Flora London Marathon and help raise more than the target of £5 million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

The Times 20 will be part of Team Flora, in which all the runners will be fundraising for the Memorial Fund, one of the two official charities for the race next year. A special panel has been set up to select readers wanting to 'Run for Diana' over the historic distance through the streets of London on Sunday, April 26.

The Times will also publish the complete results of the race — from the international heroes and heroines at the front to the determined joggers at the back.

There has already been unprecedented interest in the 1998 event. A record 100,000 people applied to enter, including 20,000 who specifically responded to an invitation to run for the Memorial Fund.

This year, it was televised in more than 100 countries and 600,000 people lined the London streets to cheer on



the 29,135 competitors, who ran from Greenwich to the Mall, triumphantly finishing the course of 26 miles 385 yards.

The fund-raising for the Memorial Fund will be poignant for many of the competitors next year because they will be running on the streets where the coffin of the Princess was carried at her funeral on September 6. It will also be 10 years since she was the official starter of the 1988 event.

Applications should not

come from people who have already been informed that they have been selected to take part in the 1998 race.

They should be from those people, who have already been rejected or from anyone else who feels they can be inspired by the attempt to run the epic distance. Both men and women, experienced runners and novices, will be considered.

The names of the chosen 20 will be published in The Times on Monday, January 19 and the newspaper will

then highlight some of the runners' stories and preparation in the build-up to the event itself.

All the members of Team Flora will be supported and helped with all aspects of the marathon running and fund-raising, from training and nutrition to self-motivation, by a specially-selected support team. Every penny raised by the 250 runners will go to the Memorial Fund, as all administration costs will be covered by the Flora London Marathon.

THE TIMES DIANA TEAM COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Read the form below carefully: the judges will base their decision on what you reveal in this form. All the winners who take part in the marathon on April 26 will be asked to sign a pledge form relating to their commitment to raise funds for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and to remit such funds by May 31, 1998. Our

entry forms for the chance to win a place in the Diana Team should reach the following address by January 9, 1998: The Times Diana Team, Flora London Marathon, PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY. Judging will take place on January 14 and the winners will be informed by telephone by January 19.

Title..... Initials.....
Surname.....
Address.....
Day tel.....
Eve tel.....
Age..... Female ☐ Male ☐
Occupation.....
Which category do you wish to enter?
Men ☐ Women ☐
Do you suffer from any illness/es?

Have you been in hospital for an operation?
If yes, state what and when

Have you, a relative or friend, ever met Princess Diana? If yes, describe the occasion

Have you, a relative or friend, any connection with any of the Diana, Princess of Wales, charities, or a special reason for wanting to be in the Diana team? Describe your connection

Have you ever competed in a marathon before?

How much money did you raise?

For which organisation/s?

Have you raised funds for any organisation/s before?

Describe how much you raised and how you did it

Do you have any outstanding achievements of which you are proud? Tell us about them

What are your hobbies?

State, in not more than 50 words, why you deserve a place in this year's marathon

Please send the completed entry form to:
The Times/Diana Team, London Marathon,
PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY

CHANGING TIMES

Equities lower after late sell-off

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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Retailers could find magic of Christmas loses its lustre

It is not just children who believe in the magic of Christmas. For the country's retailers the last two months of the year can make or break their financial fortunes. Around 30 per cent of total annual sales are made in the last quarter of the year. Even more importantly, December accounts for nearly 13 per cent of all retail sales — around 60 per cent more than in an average month.

This year the omens for a bumper Christmas looked good initially. Retail sales had soared since the beginning of the year, reaching a peak during the windfall-fuelled summer spending boom. Unemployment was still falling and in spite of the recent interest rate rises, consumer confidence and wealth remained at levels not seen for a decade. A clutch of retail surveys pointed to a seasonal shopping spree, with spending predicted to rise by a respectable 5 per cent to £24 billion — equivalent to £535 per person.

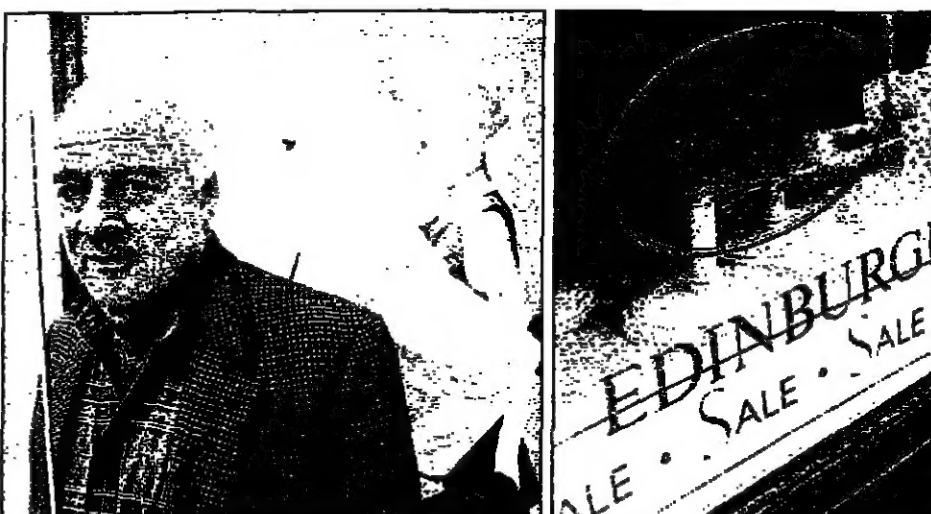
However, the evidence of this Christmas season has been more ambiguous, leaving retailers facing up to the fact that consumers have been reluctant to part with their hard-earned cash. A raft of poor trading statements, weak November retail sales data and anecdotal evidence pointed to a slow start to the festive season, leaving retail share prices under pressure as analysts rushed to downgrade their profit forecasts.

Michael Bennett, chairman of Oasis, the fashion retailer, described sales as "lacklustre", while Comet, the electrical goods retailer owned by Kingfisher, reported a disappointing increase in like-for-like sales during November.

Even at the top end of the market, retailers are finding it hard. Harvey Nichols reported that sales are only 3 per cent ahead of last year, while Joseph Wan, the company's chief executive, openly admitted that the "Absolutely Fabulous" store will be putting on a bumper January sale because it has ordered too much stock.

Some retailers, including the troubled Laura Ashley, were already discounting stock before Christmas in a desperate effort to kick-start sales. The Centre for Economics and Business Research

There are signs the seasonal spending splurge can no longer be taken as read, says Alasdair Murray



Joseph Wan, top, says Harvey Nichols will have a bumper January sale; Michael Bennett of Oasis, where Christmas has been "lacklustre"; and a sign of the times at Laura Ashley

estimates that retailers' over-optimism has resulted in a £3 billion mountain of unsold goods — around £1 billion more than usual.

Some analysts believe that signs of a weak Christmas — the strongest year for sales for a decade — reflect a shift in consumer spending habits, perhaps even the gradual demise of the Christmas shopper. Philip Booter, managing director of Camus, the cloth-

ing import company, says: "The public have become accustomed to nearly permanent sales. People will be giving money as presents at Christmas and wait until the beginning of the sales to spend it." Mr Booter believes that the impact will be devastating, especially in the clothing trade, and that if discounting persists "lots of companies will go bust this year".

However, the evidence of a distinct shift away from seasonal shopping is not conclusive. Clive Vaughan, a retail analyst at Verdict, the research group, argues that the level of discounting has actually declined over the past year. "If you look back to three or four years ago, half the companies had sales on throughout the year," he says. "But now a company such as Burton is managing to keep full prices for almost the whole year."

However, not all retailers are panicking. BHS said that its out-of-town stores have been busy. Marks & Spencer cautioned that early measures of Christmas sales are prone to give a misleading impression of business because consumers are leaving their shopping later and later.

Mr Vaughan supports this view, pointing to the vast expansion of opening hours in the last few years. Longer hours, including 24-hour supermarket openings and Sunday trading, have added 12 days of shopping time. With much of this extra time concentrated in the final week before Christmas — when many consumers are on holiday — there were many expecting the Christmas rush to come right at the end.

Mr Vaughan says: "With the introduction of Sunday trading, consumers have become more relaxed about leaving things to the last minute."

The Mintel analysis backs this theory, finding that about 40 per cent of consumers claim to start Christmas shopping only in December. Within these figures there is an inevitable bias towards a last-minute dash by male shoppers. About 30 per cent of men begin Christmas shopping only in December, while 20 per cent admit to starting in "late" December. Mr Vaughan maintained that this late rush will again have saved the retailers' Christmas, although the evidence of companies enjoying strong sales so far has been patchy.

However, given that expectations of a bumper Christmas had soared on the back of the summer retail boom, even a strong Christmas would not have satisfied the City. The round of January trading statements is likely to lead to a state of profit downgrades, while overstocking should ensure that consumers enjoy a wide choice in the January sales. The Christmas shopper may not be dead yet but retailers can no longer afford to take the seasonal splurge for granted.

An analysis by Mintel, the retail consultancy, of retail sales data from the last five years actually shows that Christmas has become more important to most retailers, although there was a slight shift away from last-quarter buying in 1996.

However, the Mintel survey provides anecdotal evidence from retailers that increased consumer affluence this year has perhaps slightly reduced the need for large-scale shopping at Christmas. Consumers have been better able to respond immediately to their needs, rather than hoarding for a Christmas splurge.

The windfall payouts from building society flotations could have exaggerated this emerging trend, with consumers bringing forward spending previously tied to Christmas. Electrical retailers, which normally take more than one third of their annual sales in the last quarter, look especially vulnerable because they enjoyed bumper sales in the summer.

Mr Vaughan also believes there are some specific problems in this market, which may be holding back sales. Television sales appear to have slumped because the imminent introduction of digital television has left consumers confused as to when to upgrade their existing sets. The computer market is also struggling because of a fierce price war, which is expected to intensify in the new year when Intel cuts prices by up to 40 per cent.

Clothing and footwear sales, which are also tied heavily to the end of the year, were weak, with the retailers blaming the erratic weather. In contrast, food and drink sales — which are less Christmas-driven — enjoyed a strong seasonal run.

However, not all retailers are panicking. BHS said that its out-of-town stores have been busy. Marks & Spencer cautioned that early measures of Christmas sales are prone to give a misleading impression of business because consumers are leaving their shopping later and later.

Mr Vaughan supports this view, pointing to the vast expansion of opening hours in the last few years. Longer hours, including 24-hour supermarket openings and Sunday trading, have added 12 days of shopping time. With much of this extra time concentrated in the final week before Christmas — when many consumers are on holiday — there were many expecting the Christmas rush to come right at the end.

Mr Vaughan says: "With the introduction of Sunday trading, consumers have become more relaxed about leaving things to the last minute."

The Mintel analysis backs this theory, finding that about 40 per cent of consumers claim to start Christmas shopping only in December. Within these figures there is an inevitable bias towards a last-minute dash by male shoppers. About 30 per cent of men begin Christmas shopping only in December, while 20 per cent admit to starting in "late" December. Mr Vaughan maintained that this late rush will again have saved the retailers' Christmas, although the evidence of companies enjoying strong sales so far has been patchy.

However, given that expectations of a bumper Christmas had soared on the back of the summer retail boom, even a strong Christmas would not have satisfied the City. The round of January trading statements is likely to lead to a state of profit downgrades, while overstocking should ensure that consumers enjoy a wide choice in the January sales. The Christmas shopper may not be dead yet but retailers can no longer afford to take the seasonal splurge for granted.

Strauss's sensual Salome

Salome
BBC2, 2.50pm

You can understand why Oscar Wilde's story, brought to seductively sensual life in Richard Strauss's opera had the shocked audience roaring its disapproval when it was first seen in 1905. The story itself — of superbly Salome, stepdaughter of King Herod (who fancies her desperately) — was originally banned. The beautiful Salome agreed to perform *The Dance of the Seven Veils* for Herod only if he would grant her any wish. At first he refuses when she says that all she wants is the head of the man she lusts after and is rejected by — John the Baptist — on a silver platter. This Covent Garden production — all black and silver and doom-laden ("I can hear the wings of the Angel of Death in the palace," sings Herod) is a wrenching experience and the central performance of Catherine Malfitano will leave you drained...

The Canterville Ghost
ITV, 4.10pm

Oscar Wilde again, with a story, adapted by Olivia Hetreed, and the cast to die for. Indeed the anonymous ghost, Sir Simon de Canterville, played by Ian Richardson, is possibly the liveliest member of the cast — all hugely enjoying themselves as they camp it up — with splendid special effects — at Knebworth House. Celia Imrie is the new mistress of Canterville Chase, Edna Dore, the formidable housekeeper, Donald Sinden an over-the-top (naturally) dinner guest, Pauline Quilke a fraudulent medium and Rik Mayall superb as a hysterical exorcist in the Very Reverend Augustus Dampier. But this is really a children's story so it falls to the young heroine (Sarah-Jane Potts) to bring peace at last to the restless spirit.

The Vicar of Dibley
BBC1, 9.00pm

A seasonal kick-off for the latest four-part series and, as played so wittily by Dawn French, a very welcome vicar this is. If the Rev Geraldine could get together with that anxious, daisy vicar from *EastEnders* their church would overflow! But I digress... Geraldine is getting seriously worried about the non-start love affair between her two



Rik Mayall as Dampier (ITV, 4.10pm)

shyest parishioners — Alice (Emma Chambers) and Hugo (James Fleet). They seem to have been stuck in the "gazing soporifically at each other" phase of their relationship for nearly a decade now, but as Geraldine manoeuvres them towards the mistletoe and their first kiss she herself gets a marriage proposal she would rather be without... Watch, too, for news of "Radio Dibley" — and a review by the parishioners at the village hall over which the curtain should perhaps be drawn.

The Hunt
BBC2, 9.00pm

"The Empire, the Church and the Countryside — these are what I hold most dear," intones the fresh-faced new Master of the Ludlow Hunt, Rupert Inglesant. And he has given unprecedented free-of-house access to director Nick Coppen's cameras for this compelling, even beautiful, study of the hunting life in rural England. Farmers, huntmen and women and local politicians get generous time to extol the glories of hunting in the face of the current opposition to pursuing and killing feral ("nocturnal pests") with horse and hound is a time honoured sport which helps keeps what Rupert calls Mother Nature in control of the countryside. Fortunately we do not see a fox actually being torn apart — rather the majority go to earth where they are trapped by dogs, specially trained to keep them at bay until they can be shot. So that's all right. Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Radio 4, 9.45am

The start of a four-part series by Kevin Connolly which aims to answer the question: how come the French are so much better at food than we are? Boxing Day is as good a time as any to start, given that many of us will be asking why we put up with the same fare every year. Connolly starts with an examination of the more exotic French tastes, although the word "exotic" is used advisedly: what it means is why do the French eat horses, amphibians' legs, snails, pigs' ears and ox cheeks? But the real oddity is not so much what the French eat but the fact that they are only 20-odd miles away from us and yet their culinary tastes might as well be Martian. History, as Connolly shows us, has the answer, of course.

Radio 1, 9.00am

9.00am The Best Music Show in the World — Ever 12.00pm The World 1 Roadshow Summer Tour 2.00pm Clive Wren 6.00pm Pete Tong's Essential '97 9.00pm Judge Jules 11.00pm Westwood 1.00pm Rap Show 2.00pm One in the Jungle 4.00pm Charlie Jordan

Radio 2, 9.00am

9.00am Alan Lester 7.30pm Wake Up to Wogan 8.30pm Keri Barker 12.00pm Alan Freeman 2.00pm Christmas Lifestyles 3.00pm The Goon Show (1) 3.30pm Richard Ainsworth 5.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm Hubert Grey 7.30pm The World 10.00pm News 10.30pm 9.30pm Listen to the Band 10.00pm and 10.30pm 11.00pm Bob Harris 1.00pm Charlie News

Radio 5 Live, 9.00am

9.00am Brief Lines '97 (7.00) The Breakfast Programme 9.00am Nicky Campbell 11.00pm Sport on Five, with Ian Payne, includes commentary and reports on the day's football and coverage of the 2.20 Perthshire King George VI Chase at Kempton Park 7.00pm The Late Show 8.00pm Extra Time (1) 10.00pm Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Jay Rayner 11.00pm News Extra 11.20pm Tales of the Turt (1) 12.00pm After Hours 2.00pm Up All Night with Richard Daffyn 5.00pm Spotlight '97

Virgin Radio, 9.00am

9.00am Nick Abbott 10.00pm Robin Barrie 2.00pm Nicky Horne 6.00pm (FM) Paul Coyle (FM) Calm Jones 10.00pm Richard Porter 2.00pm Howard Pearce

Talk Radio, 9.00am

9.00am Marilyn Bunt 10.00pm Phil Holden 1.30pm Gumbach 2.00pm The World 3.00pm The News 3.30pm The News 4.00pm Ronnie Barbour 7.30pm Nick Abbott 10.00pm Mike Allen 1.00pm Andy Whit

Radio 3, 9.00am

9.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes, including Mozart, ar Wendt (Overture The Marriage of Figaro); Haydn (Symphony No 96 in C minor) 9.00pm Morning Cellophane, with Peter Haddy, Schubert (Piano Sonata in E flat; Strauss (Ein Heldenleben) 10.00pm Musical Encounters, with Gerald Lewis, Warlock (Benedictus Dominus); Bux (Fantasy in D minor); Gurney (Down by the Sally Gardens); Prokofiev (Piano and Lullaby Suite No 3); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A); John Peterson (Rituals in Transfigured Time); Tippett (Suite for the British Chamber Orchestra) 12.00pm Composer of the Week: British Light Music 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, From Studio 7, Manchester, introduced by Rodney Studdart, Martin Roscoe and Kathryn Scott, piano duo, Mozart (Andante and Variations); Schubert (Fantasy in F minor) 2.00pm The BBC Archive: Listeners' Requests, Paul Gurney introduces a Christmas programme of requests, including Paganini (Caprice No 5 in A); Elgar (Symphony No 1 in A flat, 1st mvt); Haydn (Sonata in G, Gypsy Rondo); Tippett (Sonata in A flat, The Midsummer Marriage); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat) 3.00pm Nursery Rhymes: Ding-Dong Ball (5/6) 4.00pm Music: Reunited: Christmas Eve, The Sooties, under Harry Christophers, perform a selection of festive music (1) 4.45pm Times of the Century: A new series celebrating great performers, beginning with Russell Davies looking at Al Read

Radio 4, 9.00am

9.00am (LW) Shipping Forecast 9.00pm News Briefing 9.10pm Farming Today 9.25pm Prayer for the Day 9.30pm On Your Farm 9.35pm Weather 7.00pm Today 8.45pm The Nation's Forecasts 9.55pm Weather 9.05pm Desert Island Discs, Sue Lawley's castaway is Sir Henry Combs (1) 9.45pm Ben Appelt, See Choice (1/4) 10.00pm (FM) News: Writer's France, Peter Lennon studies the life of the *Cole d'Azur* (1/3) 10.00pm (LW) News: an Act of Worship 10.15pm (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler 10.30pm Cold Turkey with Dan and Nick, Dan Freedman and Nick Rogers host a half-hour of comedy 11.00pm Foul Play, P.D. James and H.R.P. Keating try to solve a seasonal crime (1) 11.30pm The Pickwick Papers, by Charles Dickens, dramatised by Marilyn Reid (3/6) 12.00pm News: Trueman Reads Agatha, Jerry Hanley talks to Ed Stewart, Michael Aspel, Don Maclean, Bernie Clifton, Pip Hinton and Jan Hunt about *Cockney* (2/2) 12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with James Cox 1.40pm The Archers (1) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News: Classic Serial: Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator, by Roald Dahl, dramatised by Malcolm McKee With Matthew Kelly (1) 3.00pm News: An Ardent In Sound: Playgrounds, Piers Powright looks at English life (1/2) (1) 3.30pm An Ardent In Sound: Playgrounds, Piers Powright looks at English life (1/2) (1) following a teacher through a typical day at school (2/2) (1)

World Service, 9.00am

9.00am Newsday 9.30pm Meridian Feature 2.00pm News 7.15pm From the Westwood 7.30pm Football 8.00pm News 8.15pm The World 8.30pm Andy Kershaw's World of Music 9.00pm News 9.05pm World Business Review 9.15pm The World 9.45pm Sports Roundup 10.00pm Newsday 10.30pm Northern Lights 11.00pm Newsday 11.30pm People and Politics 12.00pm News 12.05pm World Business Review 12.15pm A Jolly Good Show 12.45pm Short Story 1.00pm Newsday 2.00pm News 2.05pm Sportsround 3.00pm News 3.05pm Sportsround 4.00pm News 4.15pm Sportsround 4.30pm (5/6) only News in German 5.00pm News 5.05pm Western News From Own Correspondent 6.00pm Newsday 6.30pm Science in Action 7.00pm News 7.15pm Western News 7.30pm Options 8.00pm Newsday 9.00pm News 9.05pm World Business Review 9.15pm Britain Today 9.30pm Meridian Feature 10.00pm News 10.30pm Play of the Week, Newly to Judgement 11.30pm Andy Kershaw's World of Music 12.00pm Newsday 12.30pm News from America 12.45pm Britain Today 1.00pm Newsday 1.30pm The World 1.45pm Sports Roundup 2.00pm Newsday 2.05pm News 2.10pm News 2.15pm World Business Review 2.35pm Sports Roundup 3.30pm From Own Correspondent 4.00pm Newsday 4.30pm Global Business 5.00pm Newsday 5.30pm Jazzmaster

Classic FM, 9.00am

9.00am Alan Mann 9.00pm Nick Bailey 12.00pm Luciano Pavarotti in Mozart, Concert performance by children from the war-torn Bosnian town, where, through the world-famous tenor's fundraising efforts, he finally realised his dream of building a music centre 2.00pm Beauty and the Beast, West End's new hit musical, featuring the London cast of Derek Griffiths, Barry James, Mary Miller, Norman Rosengren and Barrie Moses. Narrator Chris de Burgh 3.30pm Margaret Howard 6.00pm Just and Friends: A Life of Jesus Spring, Hugh Macpherson traces the career of the great tenor, with contributions from opera stars including Victoria de Los Angeles, Elisabeth Soderstrom and Birgit Nilsson 8.00pm Evening Concert, Barlow's L'Enfance du Christ, Stephen Cleobury conducts the Choir of King's College, Cambridge and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra 10.30pm Michael Mappin 2.00pm Just and Friends: A Life of Jesus Spring (1) 4.00pm Sally Peterson

Radio 5, 9.00am

9.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes, including Mozart, ar Wendt (Overture The Marriage of Figaro); Haydn (Symphony No 96 in C minor) 9.00pm Morning Cellophane, with Peter Haddy, Schubert (Piano Sonata in E flat; Strauss (Ein Heldenleben) 10.00pm Musical Encounters, with Gerald Lewis, Warlock (Benedictus Dominus); Bux (Fantasy in D minor); Gurney (Down by the Sally Gardens); Prokofiev (Piano and Lullaby Suite No 3); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A); John Peterson (Rituals in Transfigured Time); Tippett (Suite for the British Chamber Orchestra) 12.00pm Composer of the Week: British Light Music 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, From Studio 7, Manchester, introduced by Rodney Studdart, Martin Roscoe and Kathryn Scott, piano duo, Mozart (Andante and Variations); Schubert (Fantasy in F minor) 2.00pm The BBC Archive: Listeners' Requests, Paul Gurney introduces a Christmas programme of requests, including Paganini (Caprice No 5 in A); Elgar (Symphony No 1 in A flat, 1st mvt); Haydn (Sonata in G, Gypsy Rondo); Tippett (Sonata in A flat, The Midsummer Marriage); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat) 3.00pm Nursery Rhymes: Ding-Dong Ball (5/6) 4.00pm Music: Reunited: Christmas Eve, The Sooties, under Harry Christophers, perform a selection of festive music (1) 4.45pm Times of the Century: A new series celebrating great performers, beginning with Russell Davies looking at Al Read

Radio 4, 9.00am

9.00am (LW) Shipping Forecast 9.00pm News Briefing 9.10pm Farming Today 9.25pm Prayer for the Day 9.30pm On Your Farm 9.35pm Weather 7.00pm Today 8.45pm The Nation's Forecasts 9.55pm Weather 9.05pm Desert Island Discs, Sue Lawley's castaway is Sir Henry Combs (1) 9.45pm Ben Appelt, See Choice (1/4) 10.00pm (FM) News: Writer's France, Peter Lennon studies the life of the *Cole d'Azur* (1/3) 10.00pm (LW) News: an Act of Worship 10.15pm (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler 10.30pm Cold Turkey with Dan and Nick, Dan Freedman and Nick Rogers host a half-hour of comedy 11.00pm Foul Play, P.D. James and H.R.P. Keating try to solve a seasonal crime (1) 11.30pm The Pickwick Papers, by Charles Dickens, dramatised by Marilyn Reid (3/6) 12.00pm News: Trueman Reads Agatha, Jerry Hanley talks to Ed Stewart, Michael Aspel, Don Maclean, Bernie Clifton, Pip Hinton and Jan Hunt about *Cockney* (2/2) 12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with James Cox 1.40pm The Archers (1) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News: Classic Serial: Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator, by Roald Dahl, dramatised by Malcolm McKee With Matthew Kelly (1) 3.00pm News: An Ardent In Sound: Playgrounds, Piers Powright looks at English life (1/2) (1) 3.30pm An Ardent In Sound: Playgrounds, Piers Powright looks at English life (1/2) (1) following a teacher through a typical day at school (2/2) (1)

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'Follow star' was the call, but nothing shone

Round my house the day started — or rather paused for recharging — with Teleubbies (BBC1). Not sure why the baby is indifferent to it, calls it a dud. But we like it and it gets us out of our way for 25 minutes, so off to Teleubbies land it was.

It didn't take long to realise that the baby had a point. I mean, how many under-ones would have appreciated Dipsy's fine impersonation of Michael Jackson breakdancing? Or the full symbolism of Tinky Winky opening his present (and after the controversial recasting there can be no doubt that Tinky Winky is a he) to find he'd been given a floating, shiny star? "Whassat?" he gurgled, with frightening authenticity.

Anyway, once he had worked it out and Noddy, the voracious vacuum cleaner, had realised you could not eat it, they were off. "Follow star," commanded Tinky Winky, which is how this particular

star came to be followed not by three wise men but four slightly dim and overweight Teleubbies. It eventually finished on the Christmas tree that has suddenly sprung up in the surreal pastures. Two to one those giant rabbits will have eaten it by new year.

"Time for Tinky-coffee or Tinky-Champers?" I inquired, after we'd said our goodbyes. It was an important decision. Go one way and there might still be time for the prune and paté stuffing that Jennifer Peterson had prepared on Two Fat Ladies (BBC2, Christmas Eve). Then I remembered the preparation of the grates needed — soaked in Earl Grey tea, simmered in goose giblet stock then rinsed in vermouth. It's not about life being too short, but Christmas certainly was. We settled for Christmas Eve's Swedish red cabbage which we prepared in an English red cabbage sort of way.

Gary would later show the same gastronomic flexibility in *Men Behaving Badly* (BBC1) when he discovered that he had neither the prunes nor the Armagnac that Della Smith specified, so he went for sun-dried tomatoes and tquila. Good choice, mate... until he hit the Bailey's. For that way lies ruin, as Aunt Sal had already discovered in *EastEnders* (BBC1). She started with sherry, then switched to gin and tonic, then moved on to red wine. Bacardi, pina colada... She was last seen staggering towards the bar of the Queen Vic in search of a Malibu and pineapple. As she said, oh so tactfully, to Phil: "Must be terrible not to have a drink at Christmas."

After the ups (best moment, Paris) and downs (Ireland) of the year, the soap is finishing the year in cracking form. Roy at death's door, Frank back on the Par prowl and best of

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

all Terry and Irene's inevitable but still scary Yuletide coupling. For a while yesterday it looked as though Peggy might even get away with her rash Christmas Eve promise that "nothing was going to spoil our Christmas." But then Phil cut up rough about baby-sitting. Grant and the newly empowered Tiffany were at each other's throats and Kath and the vicar were at each other's lips,

having a distinctly secular snog. Will Peggy catch them if it's well, I'm not missing it tonight.

Would that such compelling fare had been more evenly spread, but alas it was not. There was something particularly depressing about BBC1 scheduling *Men Behaving Badly* and *They Think It's All Over* one after the other. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, you wouldn't have blinked twice but Christmas night *Men Behaving Badly*, by itself, they'd have got away with because, despite an opening flurry of bleeped four-words, it managed to hit all sorts of raw nerves on the difference between Christmas fantasy and Christmas reality. The fact that Debs (Leslie Ash, sporting a new and seriously grown-up haircut) briefly chuckled Tony (Neil Morrissey) meant that there was even a bit of running storyline to keep up with. And when did that last happen in a Christmas special?

But following it with *They Think It's All Over*, especially a Christmas special recorded so long ago that Lee Hurst was still in David Gower's team, that was depressing. The programme's lack of charm has been an integral part of its tiddish appeal, but the sniping is now so vicious and the humour so puerile that it is difficult to disagree with those who think it is high time it was knocked on the head.

I used to be funny, it isn't any more. They think it's all over. It should be — allowing Gower and Gary Lineker to recover a bit of dignity and enabling the talented Nick Hancock to move on to something new.

Conspicuously by its absence from all channels and much missed was the big chunk of television drama that Christmas night is made for — a Morse would have done, an Agatha Christie even better. Cur-

iously, ITV rather frittered its chance away on Tuesday night with *The Pale Horse*. It may have been a star or two short of automatic top billing and it didn't have a Christmas theme, but it managed to combine a crime thriller with the occult in a fast-paced, watchable, even half-way plausible, way.

Furists may have balked at the updating of Christie's novel, but given the astonishing popularity of *Heartbeat*, it's a miracle that all ITV drama is not in the early 1960s. This one was — allowing Colin Buchanan and Jayne Ashbourne to rush around the Cotswolds in a convertible Triumph Vitesse (think Agatha Christie meets *Blow Up* — only without the sex), while some rather overconfident witches slipped into something black and shiny and prepared as only Christie witches can. "Are you comie, Sybil?" "Yes thank you dear." Lovely.

- BBC1**
- 6.30 am The Greedyasaurus Gang (8584807)
 - 6.35 William's Wish Wellingtons (8583978) 6.40 Bump's Christmas Story (2749201) 6.50 Spot's Magical Christmas (8021065) 7.00 Poodington Place (2300171) 7.25 Top Symphony (2961552) 7.50 White Christmas (6745317) 8.15 Eat the Cat (9262638) 8.40 Sweet Valley High (8060607) 9.00 North and South: On Tour (7899262) 9.25 Casper Classics (8060220) 9.40 Teleubbies (8583391)
 - 10.10 Superman III (1983) Christopher Reeve reprises the role of the Man of Steel. Directed by Richard Lester (7082807)
 - 12.10 pm Paul McCartney's Standing Stone: The Documentary How he created his first symphonic work, with help from fellow composers including John Barrow and Richard Rodney Bennett (7898571)
 - 1.00 News (T) regional news and weather (5005288)
 - 1.10 Neighbours (T) (7311275)
 - 1.30 Daytime (T) (4912355)
 - 1.40 Hook (1991) Robin Williams and Dustin Hoffman star as ex-onion enemies in Steven Spielberg's update of the classic children's story (T) (4797572)
 - 4.25 The Pink Panther (T) (3815881)
 - 4.50 Final Score (T) (8346317)
 - 5.10 News (T) (5733715)
 - 5.25 Neighbours (T) (7311275)
 - 5.30 Big Break (T) (544404)
 - 6.20 Beethoven's 2nd (1993) Comedy with Charles Grodin and Bonnie Hunt, about a lovable St Bernard dog. Directed by Rod Daniel (1478442)
 - 7.40 EastEnders Tiffany pushes Grant over the edge and Frank unwittingly becomes Pat's knight in shining armour (T) (312713)
 - 8.10 Blandine Blank Lily Savage kicks off a new series (T) (516862)
 - 8.40 News (T) and weather (780510)
 - 8.58 Perfect Day for Christmas The chart-topping video (T) (419048)
 - 9.00 The Vicar of Dibley Geraldine takes it upon herself to push Alice and Hugo's relationship forward (T) (933133)
 - 9.40 Before They Were Famous III Angus Deayton with television and film stars' early career appearances (T) (203530)
 - 10.15 Time Lapse Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as a computer salesman who leads a double life as a superspy embroiled in international terrorism. Also with Jamie Lee Curtis. Directed by James Cameron (T) (9357571)
 - 12.35 am Unplugged: Oasis An acoustic set recorded last year at London's Festival Hall (T) (498587)
 - 1.20 Carry On Girls (1973) Sid James persuades his local council to hold a beauty contest, unaware that a woman's action group is plotting to sabotage the event. Directed by Gerald Thomas (774008)
 - 2.40 Weather (2406224)
 - 2.45 BBC News 24

- BBC2**
- 7.15 am The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (T) (2965510)
 - 7.40 Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933, b/w) Joan Blondell, Ruby Keeler and Aline MacMahon star as Broadway chorus girls. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (1821468)
 - 8.15 Oliver Twist (1948, b/w) See Film Choice. David Lean directs Alec Guinness as Fagin in this adaptation of the classic Charles Dickens novel. Also starring Robert Newton, John Howard Davies, Kay Walsh and Anthony Newley (7855485)
 - 11.05 FILM: Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967) Musical farce, with Julie Andrews, as a Kansas girl who leaves her country roots behind for the bright lights of New York where she hopes to find success, sophistication, and a wealthy husband. Also starring Mary Tyler Moore and Carol Channing. Directed by George Roy Hill (T) (4715103)
 - 1.20 pm Christmas in Vienna Piccolo Domingo and Sarah Brightman, Riccardo Cocciante and Helmut Lotti perform Christmas music (2363775)
 - 2.20 Everything to Play For (3/5) (4587635)



Catherine Malfitano stars (2.50pm)

- 2.50 FILM: Salome Luc Bondy's Royal Opera production of Richard Strauss's opera, with Catherine Malfitano and Bryn Terfel (9753152)
- 4.45 Far Country (1955) James Stewart sets out to strike it rich in the Alaskan goldfields with an old pal - but finds his best efforts rewarded by swindlers, rogues and romantic problems. Directed by Anthony Mann (T) (4105846)
- 6.20 Land of the Tiger The monsoon rainforests of Assam, Southern India's Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. Last in series (T) (904510)
- 7.10 A Christmas Dickens: Mrs Linper's Symphony in C and William Forsythe's Stepped (725095)
- 9.00 Under the Sun: The Hunt Documentary promising a balanced view of fox hunting (782404)
- 10.10 Stephen and Jan Christmas Special Harold plans to take a Christmas holiday abroad (T) (838775)
- 10.55 Stella Street with John Sessions and Phil Cornwell (T) (336133)
- 11.05 The Browning Version (1954) with Albert Finney, Matthew Modine, Ben Stiller and Greta Scacchi. A lonely schoolmaster reflects that both his marriage and his career have been failures. Directed by Mike Figgis (611423)
- 12.35 am The Amazing Colossal Man (1957, b/w) Sci-fi adventure, with Glenn Langan and Cathy Downs, directed by Bert I. Gordon (2252640)
- 1.55 Weather (7880447)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (2254084)
 - 9.25 Treasure Seekers (4/4) (T) (1757881)
 - 9.55 Tiny Toon Adventures (1246591)
 - 10.20 Percy the Park Keeper (7598888)
 - 10.50 Freaky Friday (1995) Shelley Long and Gaby Hoffmann star in this comedy about a mother and daughter who magically change places for a day. Directed by Melanie Mayron (T) (5890434)
 - 12.30pm Countdown to Tomorrow The making of the 18th James Bond film, Tomorrow Never Dies (4305997)
 - 1.20 News (T) and weather (5345030)
 - 1.30 Betwixt Mask of the Phantasm (1963) Animated adventure with the caped crusader (T) (9551268)
 - 2.40 The Sword in the Stone (1963) Disney animated feature-length film of the legend of King Arthur (1187249)
 - 4.10 The Canterville Ghost Ian Richardson stars in this adaptation of Oscar Wilde's comic tale about an American family who move into an historic house, where they encounter the resident ghost. (T) (9741602)
 - 5.40 News (T) and weather (184648)
 - 5.55 Emmerdale (T) (539572)



Test pilot Mel Gibson (6.20pm)

- 6.20 Forever Young (1992) Romantic fantasy with Mel Gibson and Jamie Lee Curtis. In 1939, a test-pilot, believing his girlfriend to be dead, agrees to be cryogenically frozen for one year. However, something goes wrong and he is left unconscious for half a century. Directed by Steve Miner (T) (7018888)
- 8.20 Coronation Street Kevin has some bad news for Natalie (T) (531171)
- 8.50 News (T) and weather (221442)
- 9.00 Edna Kisses It Better Megawatt Dame Edna Everage lends the ills of the famous. Her celebrity patients include Eel MacPherson, Melinda Messenger, Cliff Richard, Rolf Harris, Lord Archer and David Seaman (T) (1317)
- 10.00 Dances with Wolves (1990) Kevin Costner's Oscar-winning epic western. After becoming a Civil War hero, a Union officer is posted to an abandoned Sioux Dakota fort. As time goes by, a tribe of Sioux Indians assimilate the white soldier into their lives. Starring and directed by Kevin Costner (T) (350881)
- 10.20am 10 (1979) Dudley Moore stars as a middle-aged Hollywood songwriter who becomes obsessed with the woman of his dreams. Directed by Blake Edwards (5003079)
- 3.30 Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (T) (5745586)
- 3.55 Sunday News (9178089)
- 4.05 Coronation Street (2016404)
- 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (78089)
- 5.30 Talepin (803535)
- 5.55 TTN News (808640)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 1.00am Box Office America (4113263)
 - 1.50 Baywatch Late (40621)
 - 3.35 Film: Please Turn Over (8700553)
 - 5.05 Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (4355027)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except: No variations
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
 - 5.00am Look and Cook (78089)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except: No variations
- S4C**
- Starts: 6.00 Dumb and Dumber (4594201)
 - 6.10 Ovde (438959)
 - 6.35 Madeline (8002930)
 - 7.00 The Babysitters' Club (58423)
 - 7.30 Two Stupid Dogs (37930)
 - 8.00 The Big Breakfast (17688)
 - 10.00 Ziggy and Zag's Big Morning (8733423)
 - 10.01 Happy Days (10775)
 - 10.30 The Morning Line (9689572)
 - 11.15 Ant and Dec's Christmas Christmas (1658555)
 - 12.00 Smudge (83323)
 - 12.30pm Slot Malthin (46611220)
 - 12.45 Pingu (4661675)
 - 1.00 Racing from Kempton Park and Leopardstown (6558249)
 - 3.20 Film: Eddie (46071648)
 - 5.05 Pump (8003317)
 - 5.25 Gogs (873030)
 - 5.40 Crefyddau'r Byd Wedi Eu Harneiddio (173607)
 - 6.00 Newyddion (173591)
 - 6.05 Heno (581210)
 - 7.00 Llyfrau Olaf (3775)
 - 8.00 Penybryn Haf (4630)
 - 8.30 Cefn Gwlad: Aelwyd Bro Gwyrthly (58249)
 - 9.30 Newyddion (834591)
 - 9.45 Garry Noddy (198201)
 - 10.00 Brookside (76688)
 - 11.30 Jo Brand Burns Rubber (87355)
 - 12.30am Film: Sea (5647737)
 - 2.40 Film: Love at First Sight (714486)

- ITV1**
- Starts: 6.00 Film: A Woman of Paris (48173404)
 - 9.20 Film: Terzan and His Mate (46897404)
 - 10.55 Musicals, Great Musicals (12358442)
 - 12.05pm The Golden Girls (31392648)
 - 12.30 Coronation Street (1252220)
 - 1.05 Home and Away Special (13803423)
 - 1.40 Film: Oliver (47880084)
 - 4.20 Film: One Christmas (46065672)
 - 6.01 Six-One (8007125)
 - 6.15-6.30 Cartoon Time (5452030)
 - 6.30 Coronation Street (7357978)
 - 6.55 Film: Jurassic Park (20301442)
 - 9.15 News and Weather (2517978)
 - 9.35 Upwardly Mobile (3881305)
 - 10.05 Film: Four Weddings and a Funeral (4707855)
 - 12.20am Film: Trading Places (28537535)
 - 2.25 Film: Come (275176)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 5.55am Dumb and Dumber (T) (6017510)
 - 6.10 Ovde (T) (438959) 6.35 Madeline (T) (8002930) 7.00 The Babysitters' Club (T) (5818852) 7.35 Two Stupid Dogs (T) (3823626) 8.00 The Big Breakfast (17688) 10.00 Ziggy and Zag's Big Morning (8733423) 10.01 Happy Days (T) (10775) 10.30 The Morning Line (9689572)
 - 11.15 Jack the Giant Killer (1961) with Kerwin Matthews and Judi Meredith Children's fantasy adventure directed by Nathan Jura (23501930)
 - 1.00pm Racing from Kempton Park and Leopardstown. Scott introduces the 1.10, 1.45, 2.20 (King George VI Chase) and 2.55 races (45729152)
 - 3.10 The Land That Time Forgot (1975) with Doug McClure, John McEnery and Susan Penhaligon Sci-fi adventure about survivors from a First World War ship who discover a legendary land. Directed by Kevin Connor (9508149)
 - 5.00 Bewitched It is Christmas and as usual Samantha's nose gets her into trouble (T) (258274)
 - 5.30 The Light Lunch Cardigan Christmas Special Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins are joined by Vic Reeves, Bob Mortimer and Ulrika Jonsson from Shooting Stars. Vic and Bob attempt to make chocolate logs while Ulrika prepares traditional Swedish fare (T) (39978)

- 6.30 A Midsummer Night's Dream (1995) Adapted from the Royal Shakespeare stage production of the romantic comedy, starring Alex Jennings and Lindsay Duncan. Directed by Adrian Noble (T) (25862)
- 8.30 Brookside A feature-length episode of the Merseyside soap. Jimmy begins to accept that he can't prevent Lindsey from seeing Barry. Jacqui worries that Ron will find out about her surrogacy deal. Max gives Julia a driving lesson. But will he be able to tell her? (T) (48928)
- 10.00 Nell (1994) with Liam Neeson, Jodie Foster and Natasha Richardson. A doctor discovers a fully-grown wild child who has had no human contact except her mother. Directed by Michael Apted (6093317)
- 12.05pm Le Confessionnal (1994) with Lothaire Bluteau and Kristin Scott Thomas. A man returns home to Quebec from China on the death of his father and learns hidden truths about his family's past. Directed by Robert LePage. In French with English subtitles (800263)
- 2.00 I Confess (1953, b/w) with Montgomery Clift and Anne Baxter. A priest cannot break the sanctity of the confessional after hearing a murderer confess. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (T) (171718)
- 3.45 Strange Cargo (1940, b/w) with Clark Gable and Joan Crawford. Eight convicts escape from Devil's Island. Directed by Frank Borzage (T) (758640)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a dish can now receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am Dappledawn Farm (T) (7778775)
 - 6.30 The Wind in the Willows (T) (63307620)
 - 6.50 Mr Men and Little Miss (30278713)
 - 7.00 Winnie's House (4589733) 7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (9509303) 8.00 Havaikazo (8453797) 8.30 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (9803288)
 - 9.00 The Princess and the Goblin Animation featuring the voices of Peggy Mount, Victor Spinetti, Claire Bloom, Joss Ackland, Sally Ann Marsh, Mollie Sugden, Roy Kinnear, Kip Mayall and Peter Murray (8198292)
 - 10.30 Stickin' Around (9088882) 11.00 Eco Warriors Special (4298822) 11.30 Wishbone (4290591) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (539274) 12.30 Family Affairs (T) (1252220) 1.00 5 News Update (86594510)
 - 1.05 Football Special Highlights from some of the year's top European and international action. Featuring World Cup qualifiers between England v Poland; Scotland v Latvia and Ireland v Belgium. UEFA cup: Arsenal and Aston Villa. Cup Winners' cup: Chelsea v Slavia Bratislava. Champions' League: Newcastle United v Croatia Zagreb and the pre-season tournament — the Umbro Cup (63709152)
 - 6.00 100 Per Cent (4415997)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs Annie and Elsa face up to the truth concerning Jack and Maria's affair. Tim and Holly share a passionate kiss (T) (8830539)



Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh (7.10pm)

- 7.10 Gone with the Wind (1939) Epic drama set during the American Civil War starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable (T) (8508281)
- 11.10 Leos The Dark Zone Stories Zev must find a supply of polo-horns to prevent Zev from dying. Last in series (2603607)
- 1.00am The Happy Hooker (1975) Offbeat comedy with Lynn Redgrave as a New York madam (5785982)
- 2.00 Smoke Signal (1955) with Dana Andrews, Piper Laurie and Rex Reason. The cavalry arrives at its new fort to find it under attack by Indians. Directed by John Hopper (8273759)
- 4.20 The Plough and the Stars (1936, b/w) with Barbara Stanwyck and Preston Foster. Charting the Irish Rising through the eyes of a man selected by the rebels to fight in Dublin. Directed by John Ford (2657331)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (T) (7744080)

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SATELLITE AND CABLE

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (851171) 9.00am Home of Our Lives (7803) 12.00pm Oprah Winfrey (800528) 1.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm Days of Our Lives (7803) 12.00pm Oprah Winfrey (800528) 1.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm Days of Our Lives (7803) 12.00pm Oprah Winfrey (800528) 1.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 4.00pm ET: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) (9454328) 6.00pm The Godfather Part II (1974) (854945) 8.00pm The Godfather (1972) (854945) 10.00pm The Godfather Part II (1974) (854945) 12.00pm The Godfather (1972) (854945)
- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 7.00am Titled: Titled (4713) 7.30 Wrestling (8588) 8.30 Knock-Out of '97 (4949) 9.30 Racing News (2201) 10.00 Aerobics (87133) 10.00 How the Ryder Cup was Won (8588) 10.30 The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm Days of Our Lives (7803) 12.00pm Oprah Winfrey (800528) 1.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 7.00am Titled: Titled (4713) 7.30 Wrestling (8588) 8.30 Knock-Out of '97 (4949) 9.30 Racing News (2201) 10.00 Aerobics (87133) 10.00 How the Ryder Cup was Won (8588) 10.30 The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm Days of Our Lives (7803) 12.00pm Oprah Winfrey (800528) 1.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- SKY MOVIES SELECT 1**
- 6.00am The Godfather (1972) (854945) 8.00pm The Godfather Part II (1974) (854945) 10.00pm The Godfather (1972) (854945) 12.00pm The Godfather Part II (1974) (854945)
- SKY MOVIES SELECT 2**
- 6.00am The Godfather (1972) (854945) 8.00pm The Godfather Part II (1974) (854945) 10.00pm The Godfather (1972) (854945) 12.00pm The Godfather Part II (1974) (854945)

- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 12.00pm Cricket: Australia v South Africa (851782) 1.00pm World of Snooker (2875429) 4.30pm Powerboat and Jet Ski World (2875429) 6.00pm NFL: Los Angeles Rams v New York Giants (851782) 7.00pm NFL: New York Giants v Los Angeles Rams (851782) 8.00pm NFL: New York Giants v Los Angeles Rams (851782) 9.00pm NFL: New York Giants v Los Angeles Rams (851782) 10.00pm NFL: New York Giants v Los Angeles Rams (851782) 11.00pm NFL: New York Giants v Los Angeles Rams (851782) 12.00pm NFL: New York Giants v Los Angeles Rams (851782)
- EUROSPORT**
- 7.00am Showdown (8588) 8.30pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 10.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 12.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- UK FOOTBALL**
- 7.00am The Suburbs (408607) 7.30pm Neighbours (481572) 8.00pm Coronation Street (7357978) 8.30pm Coronation Street (7357978) 9.00pm Coronation Street (7357978) 9.30pm Coronation Street (7357978) 10.00pm Coronation Street (7357978) 10.30pm Coronation Street (7357978) 11.00pm Coronation Street (7357978) 11.30pm Coronation Street (7357978) 12.00pm Coronation Street (7357978)
- DISNEY CHANNEL**
- 6.00pm Disney's World of Color (851782) 7.00pm Disney's World of Color (851782) 8.00pm Disney's World of Color (851782) 9.00pm Disney's World of Color (851782) 10.00pm Disney's World of Color (851782) 11.00pm Disney's World of Color (851782) 12.00pm Disney's World of Color (851782)

- PARAMOUNT COMEDY**
- 7.00pm Grace Under Fire (8572) 7.30pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 8.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 9.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 10.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 12.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- CARTOON NETWORK**
- All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 6.00am to 6.00pm, seven days a week.
- NICKELODEON**
- 6.00am Angry Beavers (8588) 7.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 8.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 9.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 10.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 12.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- THE SCI-FI CHANNEL**
- 8.00pm Film: Flash Gordon (1980) (851782) 9.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 10.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 12.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- HOME & LEISURE**
- 6.00am-4.00pm The Old House
- DISCOVERY**
- 4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (8588) 4.30pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 5.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 6.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 7.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 8.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 9.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 10.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 12.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- CHALLENGE TV**
- 5.00pm Cross Wits (8588) 6.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 7.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 8.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 9.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 10.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 12.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- FOX KIDS NETWORK**
- 6.00am Daily and His Friends (8588) 7.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 8.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 9.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 10.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 11.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784) 12.00pm The 11th Annual Video Music Awards (858784)
- TRAVEL**
- 12.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 1.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 2.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 3.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 4.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 5.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 6.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 7.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 8.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 9.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 10.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 11.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588) 12.00pm Arctic Wonderland (8588)

- THE HISTORY CHANNEL**
- 4.00pm Christmas at War (8588) 5.00pm The History of the RAF (8588) 6.00pm The History of the RAF (8588) 7.00pm The History of the RAF (8588) 8.00pm The History of the RAF (8588) 9.00pm The History of the RAF (8588) 10.00pm The History of the RAF (8588) 11.00pm The History of the RAF (8588) 12.00pm The History of the RAF (8588)
- CARLTON FOOD**
- 12.00pm Food Network Daily (8588) 1.00pm Food Network Daily (8588) 2.00pm Food Network Daily (8588) 3.00pm Food Network Daily (8588)



CITY QUIZ WHIZ 37

How did you fare in our brain-teaser? We have all the answers

BUSINESS

FESTIVE MAGIC 38

Is the seasonal spending splurge losing its lustre?



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26 1997

Hamanaka offers Sumitomo \$800,000 redress

BY JASON NISSE

YASUO HAMANAKA, the rogue trader whose dealings cost Sumitomo Corporation \$2.6 billion (£1.55 billion), has offered to pay his former employer \$800,000 that he had kept in a Swiss bank account.

The offer came in a Tokyo court yesterday, as Mr Hamanaka was questioned by prosecutors before being sentenced in the new year. Mr Hamanaka, who was nicknamed "Mr Five Per Cent" because he once controlled that proportion of the world's copper market, has pleaded guilty to charges of fraud and forgery in connection with the losses incurred by Sumitomo.

Mr Hamanaka had earlier admitted that Saburo Shimizu, his former boss and business partner, had given him over \$1.5 million which he had deposited in an account at Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich in the early 1990s.

In October the Swiss authorities told Sumitomo, which has been suing Mr Hamanaka, that it could confiscate anything in that account, but the group has yet to take any action. The existence of this secret account emerged only last June, a year after the Sumitomo scandal came to a head.

In court, Mr Hamanaka said only \$800,000 was left in the account. Asked by prosecutors if he intended to pay any compensation to Sumitomo, he said: "Yes. The amount that I can compensate is limited to the outstanding balance of my account at UBS in Switzerland."

Mr Hamanaka also detailed how he managed to get into the situation where he hid billions of dollars of unauthorised trading on the copper markets using forged documentation. He said that after racking up dealing losses he increased the level of unauthorised trading during 1994 and 1995 in the hope of recovering the deficit. The full extent of losses emerged only in June 1996.

Mr Hamanaka is due in court again on February 2.



Yasuo Hamanaka, accompanied by prosecutors, shortly after his arrest in October 1996. He is due to appear in court again on February 2

Eurotunnel adds to run of failures over targets

BY FRASER NELSON

EUROTUNNEL has failed to meet its traffic targets for the third year running, falling at least 10 per cent short of the goals it set for 1997 only seven months ago.

The company, which operates the Channel Tunnel and Le Shuttle service, will confirm next month that a hectic Christmas rush has failed to compensate for a lacklustre performance through the year.

The disappointing figures will intensify fears that the company is ill-placed to meet its plan to break into profit and to start rewarding its

shareholders with dividend payments by 2006.

London & Continental Railways (LCR), which runs the Eurostar service from London Waterloo, has also missed the 1997 target for passenger numbers. It is set to finish the year some 700,000 short of the 6.7 million journeys that Eurotunnel had expected.

By the end of November, Eurostar's running 1997 total was 5.51 million passengers, against its target of 6.6 million. After last week's fracas, where hundreds of travellers were told to cancel trips to make way for 3,000 servicemen and women returning from Germany, its December total is unlikely to exceed 500,000.

As part of Eurotunnel's plans to mount a £4.4 billion debt-for-equity swap, it pre-

dicted that it would take 2.51 million cars through the tunnel in 1997. In the year to November, the running total was 2.04 million. Even if Le Shuttle was fully booked in December, the total would fall far short of the "downside case" in its prospectus.

The tourist coach service is set to prove the most embarrassing failure. Eurotunnel predicted that it would carry 80,000 coaches this year but by the end of November had only managed 56,500.

The 1997 figures, to be announced in the second week of January, will undermine confidence in Eurotunnel's 1998 projections, which promise a 30 per cent jump in cars using Le Shuttle.

The City has been sceptical of Eurotunnel's forecasts. One transport analyst said: "This

leaves you with very little faith in the company's ability to forecast. Whoever compiled these forecasts would never get a job in the City."

Although Eurotunnel has failed to live up to its traffic forecasts for the past three years, its followers had expected the company to have improved. As *The Times* reported on Christmas Eve, London & Continental has already fallen behind its construction timetable for the proposed high-speed link between the tunnel and London.

It had promised to find contractors for £500 million of work as part of the £1.4 billion of public money it has been given to mastermind the link. Coupled with the poor traffic figures, the delay will undermine its chances of raising £5.4 billion in debt and equity

through a flotation next year.

However dismal the traffic figures, Eurotunnel's revenue will be protected by a minimum payment scheme agreed by the rail users. This will protect the company's top line until 2006, delivering a minimum £560 million of sales this year and £636 million next year. But this will be absorbed by interest payments on its £8.6 billion of debt, which is expected to lead to a £316 million pre-tax loss this year.

Christian Cambier, the disident French investment manager who criticised Eurotunnel's restructuring plan, has been recruited to the board after he agreed to the debt-for-equity swap.

Eurotunnel's shares closed at 60p before Christmas, near their low of 57p and a fraction of their 88p high.

IMF agrees emergency \$10bn deal with Korea

BY JASON NISSE

THE International Monetary Fund rode to the rescue of South Korea over Christmas by agreeing to an emergency \$10 billion (£6 billion) package to stabilise the economy.

The payment — an advance on the \$60 billion bail out of the South Korean economy agreed earlier this month with the IMF — will come in two stages, with \$2 billion being paid almost immediately and another \$8 billion in the new year. This latest package comes on top of a \$3 billion stabilisation loan, agreed by the World Bank on Tuesday.

Thirteen leading nations are putting up money, with the UK contributing \$400 million and the US \$1.7 billion. Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, said it was "very highly likely" the money would be repaid by South Korea in the not too distant future.

The IMF deal came in exchange for a wide-ranging reform package agreed by Kim Dae Jung, the President-elect, which included the opening up of the country's financial markets to foreign banks, a bail out for leading domestic banks, as well as labour market reforms. The package was greeted with relief in Seoul as Mr Kim had expressed worries about commercial banks refusing to roll over debt repayments coming due from South Korea.

The financial crisis in South Korea has seen the won collapse to nearly half its value against the US dollar during December. However, it strengthened on Christmas Eve and dealers are hoping for further stability.

There was also optimism in Tokyo, where reformers announced by the Ministry of Finance covering the way commercial banks account for their investments in Japanese stocks brought a surge in the Nikkei index yesterday.

The ministry's proposals allow banks and insurance companies to revalue their holdings of securities without having to adjust their earnings to reflect the changes. Previously any fall in the prices below the book values recorded by the banks would bring a loss, and this prompted banks to support share

prices artificially. The Nikkei rose 2.51 per cent, to 15,300.1, with the banking sectors strong in spite of downgradings of two leading Japanese banks by Standard & Poor's, the credit agency, and the placing of four more on credit watch.

However, brokers were still saying that the market could fall as banks start to implement the changes.

Leading article, page 17

Harrods and Boots to be sued

BY JASON NISSE

HARRODS and Boots are both to be sued for allegedly copying designs from small firms to make Christmas novelties. The two cases, which are unrelated, are part of a campaign to try to stop infringement of copyright.

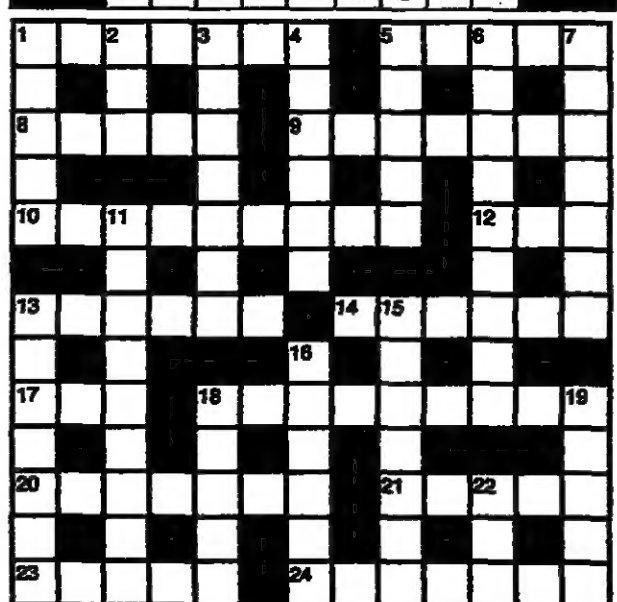
Saint Nicolas, a small group based in Fulham, southwest London, is to take action against Harrods, the Knightsbridge store owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, over Christmas decorations featuring Life Guards, Scots Guards and red telephone boxes. It has been selling these at Harrods since 1989 but received no orders this year.

Then Nicola Barry, Saint Nicolas's founder, discovered similar items for sale in Harrods. The store says these are similar to those on sale around the UK and there has been no copyright infringement.

Boots is to be sued by Bliss over gift items which Bliss says are strikingly similar to those it supplied for many years — largely recipe books and utensil holders. This contract was terminated.

Boots says that the articles are completely different.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1286

ACROSS

- 1 Part of bird; turn (east) (7)
- 5 Arms and legs (5)
- 8 Soviet camp system (5)
- 9 Warship; pleasure boat (7)
- 10 Today, Christmas was (9)
- 12 Meadow (3)
- 13 To wallow; a jumble (6)
- 14 An aggressive cock (6)
- 17 A sheep; computer storage (3)
- 18 Toupee (9)
- 20 A worm: *Dun, Nell (anag.)* (7)
- 21 Weapon; plunder (5)
- 23 Weighty (5)
- 24 Had a try (7)

DOWN

- 1 Such pudding we 2 like (anag.) (5)
- 2 Everyone (3)
- 3 Practice of cleanliness (7)
- 4 Slowly go away, down (6)
- 5 Poor, mean; infested (5)
- 6 White-berried parasite (9)
- 7 Ironie scorn (7)
- 11 Sp. city, province; Wellington victory, 1812 (9)
- 13 Belligerent braves on it (7)
- 15 Hopes to attain (7)
- 16 Centre (6)
- 18 Red-berried tree girl's name (5)
- 19 Make corrections to (5)
- 22 Insect; run away (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1285

- ACROSS: 1 Night 4 Capious 8 Christmas 9 Tea 10 Exit 11 Multitree 13 Cohort 14 Placed 17 Sympathy 19 Hard 22 IOU 23 Unconscious 24 Cheese
- DOWN: 1 Nacre 2 Garnish 3 Tusk 4 Campuss 5 Possible 6 Outlet 7 Spurred 12 Creature 13 Casulist 15 Chateau 16 Shucks 18 Mouse 20 Duncie 21 Inch

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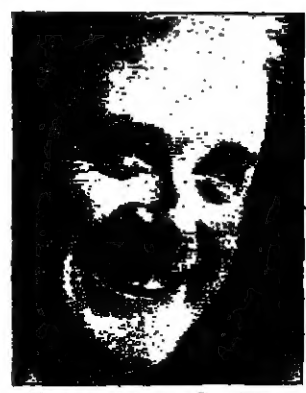
Granada attacked over payoff for contract cuts

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

GRANADA, the media, hotel and restaurant group, has been criticised by Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy, for paying its directors compensation for reducing their notice period from three years to two.

The payments take the total remuneration package for Gerry Robinson, Granada's Labour-supporting chairman, to nearly £1 million. The directors have been given the equivalent of two months' salary for the changes to their service contracts. The fact that five directors will get a total of £570,000 is revealed in Granada's 1997 annual report.

Pirc said the "unusual" payments went against the spirit of the Greenbury committee report on executive pay, which called for a reduction in notice period to avoid the large payoffs



Robinson: nearing £1m

some executives have received. "Greenbury did not say that there needed to be compensation for reductions in contract periods. If every company gave compensation for cutting notice periods then it would defeat the object of doing so in the first place, which is to cut

corporate costs," Pirc said. Mr Robinson will receive £138,534 on top of a total remuneration package of £857,000. Last year he was paid £728,000. Charles Allen, group chief executive, received a one-off payment of £110,000 in addition to his remuneration of £672,000. This compared with the 1996 total of £531,000. Stephanie Monk, human resources director, Graham Parrott, commercial director, and Henry Staunton, finance director, received a total of £126,167 for the change to their service contracts.

Greenbury suggests notice periods of 12 months or less. Granada's annual report argues that in the media and service industries longer service contracts have enabled the company "to attract and retain executives of the highest quality". Granada also said the payments were not unique.

Barnes & Noble switch fuels talk of Waterstone's bid

Bookstore launch shelved

BARNES & NOBLE, the US book retailer, has cancelled plans for a UK roll-out of American-style browse-and-return book stores, igniting renewed speculation that it could buy Waterstone's bookstore chain (Oliver August writes from New York).

WH Smith, which owns Waterstone's, was recently said to have been negotiating with EMI, the music group, over the proposed spin-off of the chain, which has 10 per cent of the UK book market. The New York-based

Barnes & Noble, which calls itself "the world's largest bookstore", has recalled its "beach-head team" from Britain. The 15-strong team had been scouring the UK for store sites and was supposed to lead an assault on British high streets in the spring. One rumoured explanation for the withdrawal is that the team had experienced difficulties finding sufficiently large store sites on UK high streets.

Barnes & Noble's superstores have won a huge following with their liberal

browsing policy. Customers are invited to spend hours reading books and magazines in the in-house cafeteria. The management is unusually lenient with customers who buy and return books — even after reading them from cover-to-cover.

The UK withdrawal is also said to have been influenced by the growing importance of Internet book sales. Barnes & Noble offers more than one million titles online and has a substantial UK Internet customer base.

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